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ISSUE 617 January 2023

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### 2023 EVENT PLANNER

- SHORE MATCHES
- BOAT COMPS
- FESTIVALS
- SHOWS
- UK & IRELAND

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SKZB8015-BU	DOWN TIDE	8'	6-15lb	2
SKZB8025-BU	DOWN TIDE	8'	15-25lb	2
SKZB7612FS-BU	FIXED SPOOL	7' 6"	6-12lb	2
SKZB7620FS-BU	FIXED SPOOL	7' 6"	12-20lb	2
SKZB7630FS-BU	FIXED SPOOL	7' 6"	20-30lb	2
SKZB7020-4-BU	TRAVEL	7'	12-20lb	4
SKZB7030-4-BU	TRAVEL	7'	20-30lb	4
SKZB7050-4-BU	TRAVEL	7'	30-50lb	4
SKZB6660-3-BU	TRAVEL	6' 6"	40-60lb	3
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# WELCOME

## ISSUE 617 JANUARY 2023

Untimely deaths are always a great shock. Nothing brings the fragility of life into sharper focus than the unexpected and sudden loss of someone. So it was with great sadness that the angling community across the UK heard of the death of angling broadcaster and journalist Nick Fisher. Nick had featured in Sea Angler a number of times and was a friend of the magazine and a number of our contributors who had fished with him. I remember watching the series Screaming Reels as a boy and in my twenties working on his fishing column for the Shooting Times magazine. All of us at Sea Angler pass on our condolences to Nick's family and friends. Dave Lewis will be writing an obituary for Nick in the next issue when we will have the space in the magazine to do it, and Nick's contribution to UK sea angling, justice.

With the start of a new fishing year approaching we've put together a selection of some of the biggest or most popular matches, shows and festivals over the course of 2023. Try as I have over the course of 2022, I've found it almost impossible to find the time to attend as many events as I would have wished. The job of editing Sea Angler has been all-consuming at times which is why I'm determined to carve out time to attend as many of these events as I can in 2023. I look forward to seeing as many of you at these as possible too. My advice, based

on my own experience, is to get them in your diary now and pre-warn your other half with as much notice as possible. It's no good reminding them a week before the event when you're double booked and are committed to attend your nephew's cat's birthday party the same weekend. Get out of that one!

Like many of you, no doubt, I'm at a stage in my life where job, children and other responsibilities put pretty heavy restrictions on my ability to get out fishing; I got my boat out on the water just six times in 2022. As frustrating as it is to not have the freedom of being either retired, or a responsibility-free twenty-something again, it does force you to plan ahead and appreciate the fishing time you manage to get more than you would have done otherwise. Which is perhaps why I enjoyed reading Mike Thrussell's New Year fishing resolutions, starting on page 12, so much. Making a commitment to focus on one or more of these over the course of the next 12 months turns every limited fishing opportunity into the chance to achieve a specific goal, whether it be a species target list, a new venue or another target that you've set yourself. The end result, I've come to realise, is that a year of very sparse fishing opportunities could turn into one of the most productive and rewarding if you recalibrate what you want to achieve and commit to focusing on some realistic but ambitious goals each and every time you go fishing. Less can be more. Or to put it another way, for those of us at the stage in life when fishing time is seen as an occasional luxury, the focus should be on the quality of our fishing rather than the quantity.

Finally, after suggesting in his feature in the last issue, A Unique Fishing Legacy, that it might jog someone's memory as to the whereabouts of a picture of Marmion Garnsey's 1964 29lb record turbot, Mike Millman was delighted and thoroughly surprised when a reader got in touch with Sea Angler to inform us that the photograph, which has evaded Mike for so long, was to be found in the fourth Angling Times yearbook published in 1965. And so the case of the missing turbot was solved. What a fantastic community of readers we have!

Until next month  
David

## CHRISTMAS SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

We've got a fantastic Christmas offer to get 13 issues of Sea Angler for just £37.99 saving up to 35 per cent. It's the perfect gift for a friend or family member that will last all year. Quite literally, it's the gift that keeps on giving!



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**SEE PAGE 108**

## SHORE ANGLER

### 6 AWESOME EVENTS

A look ahead to some of the biggest and best sea fishing matches, festival and shows in 2023.

### 12 RESOLUTIONS FOR SUCCESS

10 promises to make to yourself to ensure 2023 is a fishing year to remember.

### 18 NO TIME TO BE PATIENT

With plenty of bass about James Batty explains why patience is not a factor in successful bass fishing this winter.

### 28 OBSESSIVE CONGER DISORDER

Chris Kennedy bags a specimen eel on a night of bream fishing with pals.

### 34 SEA ANGLING SNAPS

Here's a selection of your photos entered into our Harrison Cameras competition.

### 38 MULTI-SPECIES MUMBLES

Dave Lewis and Roger Munro discover the rich species diversity of Mumbles Pier.

## WHERE TO FISH

### 42 STOKE POINT

Mike Millman shares his local knowledge of the marks around this south Devon venue.

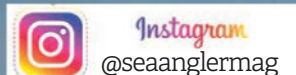
### 44 NEWTON POINT

Follow these tips and tactics for success at this famous South Wales cod venue.

### 46 GALLOWAYS

Target late autumn bass at this Kent venue just west of Dungeness.

# CONTENTS



## YOUR CATCHES

### 50 MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The best of your specimen catches from the last month.

### 54 YOUNG RODS

Youngsters showing the adults how it's done with their great catches!

## BOAT ANGLER

### 56 CORNISH CRACKERS

Mike Millman looks back at some remarkable exotic catches from Cornish waters.

### 62 FIVE TIMES TON-UP

Dave Lewis goes out targeting bluefin – but will he catch his fifth UK species over 100lb?

### 66 TALES FROM THE TIDELINE

Simon Smith bumps into an old fishing pal from the carefree days of their youth.

### 68 THREE IS THE MAGIC NUMBER

We explain the importance of the three-layer rule in keeping warm and dry this winter season.

### 70 GNARLY NEWQUAY

Dave Lewis on the rich and radical fishing opportunities at the surf capital of the UK.

### 72 BRINGING BACK BRITISH COD

David Mitchell asks whether it's time to accept cod in the southern North Sea have gone for ever and move on.

28





# ISSUE 617 JANUARY 2023

ON SALE THURSDAY DECEMBER 8TH - WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4TH

## 74 GOING SUPERSIZE

Dave Lewis explains how to use extra-large shads for extra-large fish – in the UK and abroad.

## 76 ALDERNEY ANGLING FESTIVAL 2022

David Nash reports on this year's popular Channel Island event.

## 78 BLASTS FROM THE PAST

Delving into the Sea Angler archives from 1983 – Peter Coull reflects on the cod season.

## 80 BUCKET LIST

Dave Lewis explains where and how in the USA to target the popular spotted trout.

## SEA SCHOOL

### 82 YOUR Q&As

Seven pages of saltwater solutions to your catch conundrums!

### 89 THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

John Holden offers sage advice on reconditioning or customising old multipliers.

### 90 READER OFFER

At just £25 save £24.99 on this Shakespeare Firebird boat combo.

### 91 BOAT STORE

Find out about the award-winning new rescueME personal locator beacon with AIS and mobile app.

# 18

80

## TACKLE

### 92 FIRST LOOK

New tackle, gear, gadget and gift ideas to tickle your tackle tastebuds.

### 94 COMPETITION

Don't miss the chance to win a fantastic new Tronixpro Xenon Quartz beachcaster worth £199.99.

### 96 KIT YOU NEED

Mike Thrussell on the tackle needed to tame rough ground bull huss this winter.

### 98 HANDLE WITH CARE

Chris Kennedy reviews the Rapala Weigh and Release Mat.

### 100 CAN YOU HANDLE IT?

David Mitchell tests Daiwa's light weight mobile net handle.

### 101 MAKING A SPLASH

Henry Gilbey reviews the Savage Gear Slap Walker range of lures.

### 102 NO GUTS, NO GLORY!

The verdict by the England Big Game fishing team on a new range of fish repellent clothing.

### 104 PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

BASS Chairman, Steve Pitts, reports on developments towards a new UK bass fishery management plan.

## MATCH ANGLER

### 110 PENN SEA LEAGUE

The latest results and leader board from the UK's largest shore match fishing competition.

### 113 WHAT'S ON

Upcoming matches for your competition calendar.

### 114 TIDES

Check out the new format for tides with more detailed information to help plan your fishing sessions.



# AWESOME EVENTS IN 2023

Here's a look ahead to some of the biggest and best sea fishing matches, festival and shows taking place across the UK and Ireland in 2023.

## JANUARY

### AMBLE OPEN

For a small club in north-east England it's remarkable how the Amble Open has established itself as one of the biggest shore matches in the UK. In 44 years the club has never had fewer than 450 entries and this year's 45th Open should see similar numbers flock to the Northumberland coast. Boundaries are south side of Seahouses Harbour to Cambois Pier excluding all rivers and piers. You can register on the day at the Radcliffe Club, Charles Road, Amble, Northumberland, NE65 0RA, from 6.45am. Pre-registration is available from 2 January at local tackle shops. Weigh-in is at the Radcliffe Club from 12.30pm - 1.45pm. The open takes place on 8 January from 8.30am - 12.30pm, £12 entry, all classes.

Enquiries to Jimmy French: 07845 251241



Note  
Book  
Tickets

## FEBRUARY

### SBS BOATLIFE

In its second year, SBS BoatLife 2023 is again set to bring the boating community together at NEC Birmingham with an exciting line-up of sponsors, partners and exhibitors. Following great success in 2022, the show provides a great chance for visitors to become fully immersed in the wonderful marine world. A much-anticipated feature is the exciting Angling Village, a vibrant area for beginners to connoisseurs to soak up the vibe and which is perfectly complemented by two prominent ambassadors from the angling sector. Expect to see top power, RIB and sports boat names exhibiting in this locale, with price points to suit every budget and a wide choice of size, design and style. There will be a pool zone with professional demonstrations plus family visitor sessions, industry figureheads taking to the BoatLife stage and the highly popular inland waterways exhibit returns. From 16-19 February. To book your ticket and for all further information go to [boatlifeevents.com](http://boatlifeevents.com)

**AMBLE SEA ANGLING CLUB**

**45<sup>th</sup> OPEN FISHING COMPETITION**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
**From 08:30 to 12:30**

**Entry Fee: £12 All Classes**

HEAVIEST BAG:	HEAVIEST FISH:	HEAVIEST FLATFISH:
1st — £500	1st — £500	1st — £150
2nd — £300	2nd — £250	2nd — £100
3rd — £150	3rd — £100	3rd — £50

**LADIES PRIZE:**  
1st — £50  
2nd — £30  
3rd — £20

**JUNIOR PRIZE:**  
1st — £50  
2nd — £30  
3rd — £20

sponsored by Craig Middlemist      sponsored by Ashley Gray

Approx £6000 total prize fund, including many supporting prizes and a quality raffle.

**Headquarters:** The Radcliffe Club, Charles Road, Amble, NE65 0RA. Tel: 07584 251 241.

**Registration:** At local tackle shops from 2<sup>nd</sup> January or from 06:45 on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January at the Radcliffe Club HQ.

**Weigh-in:** From 12:30 to 13:45 at the Radcliffe Club HQ.

**Boundaries:** South side of Seahouses Harbour to Cambois Pier (excluding all piers and rivers)



# MARCH

## EUROPEAN OPEN BEACH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Paul Roggeman European Open Beach Championship will be held 4-5 March with the exciting Flattie Bash warm up event taking place on Friday 3 March. The event is now in its 29th year and is the largest three-day beach fishing competition in Europe. Held on the stunning East Yorkshire coast, from Bridlington North Beach to Spurn Point, the event features an exceptional prize table, with huge cash prizes and fantastic fishing equipment to be won! Competitors will also be able to pick up valuable experiences, tactics, skills and techniques whilst enjoying a fun-filled weekend meeting new and old friends. Some of the top companies within the industry will be exhibiting at the event hub, Sand le Mere Holiday Park to provide you with an insight into all aspects of sea angling.

**For more information and to book your tickets, please visit [eobc.co.uk](http://eobc.co.uk) or follow the Facebook page on [www.facebook.com/openbeachchamps](https://www.facebook.com/openbeachchamps)**



# JUNE

## MULL OF GALLOWAY SEA ANGLING FESTIVAL

Festivities kick off in June from 10-11 with the tope event – a boat event with a maximum of 60 boats launching from Drummore. Longest tope wins while there are also prizes for longest bull huss, smoothhound, thornback and mackerel.

**Pre-booking only. online booking form via MOGSFA Facebook page. A tractor launch is available!**



3-5 MARCH 2023

**29th**  
**PAUL ROGGEMAN**  
**EBC**  
 EUROPEAN OPEN BEACH CHAMPIONSHIP

**PENN SEA LEAGUE POINTS AWARDED**  
**THE LARGEST 3 DAY**  
**BEACH FISHING COMPETITION**  
**IN EUROPE**  
**HUGE PRIZE FUND**  
**AND RAFFLE TABLE**

For more information on the championships, Flattie Bash, or to purchase early bird tickets (deadline Thursday, 23 February 2023), please visit [eobc.co.uk](http://eobc.co.uk)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

f @openbeachchamps  
 @eobcchampionship

## Tip

**Remember, for some events pre-booking is essential. Be sure to check ahead to avoid disappointment!**

## WESTPORT SEA ANGLING FESTIVAL

Fished in the beautiful waters of Clew Bay, County Mayo, Westport Sea Angling Festival is now in its 67th year and one of Europe's longest running festivals. In the heydays of the 1970s and 80s over 200 anglers descended on Westport for a week-long event. The competition is on a point system and is fished over three days. After a short break due to covid organisers are looking forward to welcoming back English, Welsh, Scottish and Dutch anglers once again. Most competitors are now old friends who have been attending this event annually for almost 30 years. The festival will take place on Friday-Sunday of June (23rd-25th). Booking is essential and the closing date is the 30th of April. **Contact Ray: 087655374 or Julie: 0877656202.**





## JUNE

### SEA ANGLING CLASSIC

The success of the 2022 Sea Angling Classic exceeded many expectations and there's a buzz of excitement around what will only be the third staging of the event in 2023. The Classic will take place from the 14-18 June commencing with a spectacular opening parade in Portsmouth. The fishing arena will remain the same (subject to weather) as there were over 3,000 fish caught last year. The event will be a catch photograph and release event using the live leaderboard event app. A phenomenal prize table includes an Extreme 745 Game king with trailer complete with a 300hp V6 Yamaha engine and Helm Master EX system with joystick control. The captain of the winning boat also wins a trip to New Zealand to see the amazing build quality of the boat. Prizes go from 1st to 20th place with categories for biggest of each of the five species, best placed lady angler, best placed junior and best placed boat 6.7m and under. The event will culminate with a celebration party on Saturday night, 17 June, in Portsmouth at Gunwharf Quays followed by the full prize giving on 18 June. **Full more details and to register for 2023 visit [www.seaanglingclassic.com](http://www.seaanglingclassic.com)**



## JULY

### THE BIG LERF FUNDRAISER

The Big Lurf Fundraiser is an annual one-day lure only competition helping to raise money for charities relevant to angling, such as the RNLI and Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme. Last year competitors raised £1,500 for the causes and over 50 anglers made it to the event. This year there will be free entry for junior anglers and there will be a huge variety of prizes in multiple categories, ranging from top-of-the-range LRF rods to tackle bags and bundles. The event takes place on Saturday 8 July from 9am-6pm at Mount Batten Breakwater, Plymouth, Devon. £20 entry – all proceeds going to charity. **See the website for more details. Tickets available online at [ko-fi.com/thebiglurf](http://ko-fi.com/thebiglurf)**

## AUGUST

### MULL OF GALLOWAY SEA ANGLING FESTIVAL – SPECIES HUNT

The MOGSF Species Hunt is a boat fishing event taking place from 11-13 August (fishing the best two days). Most species wins and there are also prizes for eight nominated species. Pre-booking only. Boats will be launching from Drummore and Portlogan. Again, a tractor launch is available. **Please visit the [online booking form](#) via the MOGSF Facebook page.**



## SEPTEMBER

### ORVIS SALTWATER FLY FISHING FESTIVAL

The Orvis Saltwater Fly Fishing Festival returned for its third year in September 2022 in Chichester Harbour and Hayling Island. Over 130 anglers from all over the UK descended on the beaches of Hayling Island in pursuit of bass and mullet. The annual festival welcomes all ages and abilities and although there is a competition element, the main aim is to bring together like-minded anglers to forge new friendships, develop new skills and learn more about Saltwater Fly Fishing, which is becoming increasingly popular on the UK coastline. The weekend celebrated a record number of catches alongside a record number of competitors. **In 2023 the festival will take place in early September and the Orvis Beginners Saltwater Weekend will take place in July, with tickets for both events on sale at [www.orvis.co.uk](http://www.orvis.co.uk) in January.**





Note  
Check bait  
order...

## BIG LERF WEEKENDER

The Weekender is a worldwide, free entry, online lure fishing festival which gets bigger every year. The event celebrates the huge variety of species that can be caught on lures across the world. It is run through The Big Lurf Facebook and Instagram pages. Competitors work together to add species to the total but there are also individual prizes for UK, Ireland and international anglers in various categories. The Big Lurf Weekender takes place from 11am on 8 September until 6pm 10 September. **For more information visit Ben Bassett's blog at [www.benbassettfishing.home.blog](http://www.benbassettfishing.home.blog) or search The Big Lurf on Facebook or Instagram.**

## MULL OF GALLOWAY SEA ANGLING FESTIVAL - BASS EVENT

Some truly specimen bass were caught at the MOGSAF bass event in 2022. The event is shore only using bait and lures. Anglers will compete from 30 September - 1 October. Longest bass wins with a separate junior category. **Pre booking only, online booking form via the MOGSAF Facebook page.**

## SOUTHAMPTON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

The Southampton International Boat Show will take place at Mayflower Park, Southampton from 15-24 September. The show features everything the experienced or newbie boat angler could wish for with boats, kayaks, electronics and everything else boat fishing related to suit all budgets. Building on the new show layout introduced in 2021, the 2023 show, which runs over 10 days, promises to bring even more attractions, new VIP experiences and something for everyone with hundreds of exhibitors, over 650 craft on display, a purpose-built marina and plenty of opportunities to get out on the water. If you're planning on heading to the Southampton International Boat Show 2023 then you take advantage of the early bird ticket offer and remember, up to two kids go free with every adult ticket. **[www.southamptonboatshow.com](http://www.southamptonboatshow.com)**

## TORBAY FESTIVAL

The 2023 Borough of Torbay Sea Angling Festival begins at 7pm on 1 September and continues unbroken until the same time on 10 September. Entries and weigh-ins will be at Torbay tackle shops and the headquarters of Paignton Sea Anglers Association in Cliff Road, Brixham Sea Angling Club, Castor Road and Dartmouth SAC on Oxford Street. As always, the prize list will be worth in the region of £10,000 and there will be substantial cash awards for the Best from Boat (excluding wrecks) Best Shore and Top Wreck. The usual array of trophies will be on offer including the now very valuable Dame Agatha Christie. Leading species will include bass and black bream. More details will be available by the end of March. The dates for the Wyvern Small Boat Championship, held in Salcombe for over 40 years, has yet to be confirmed and the same applies to the Dartmouth Sea Angling Festival. Another date to be decided is for the Wyvern Junior Competition fished from Plymouth's Mount Batten Breakwater.



## ROSSLARE SMALL BOATS FESTIVAL

The 36th Annual Rosslare Small Boats Festival will be held in 2023 between 9-15 September. The festival is a four day species hunting competition. The boat crew who catch the greatest number of species are crowned the winners. Separate competitions are run alongside the main event including a prize for largest nominated species, the heaviest round and flat fish, best specimen of the week, heaviest fish of the festival, best newcomer, biggest bass and boat returning the most fish alive.

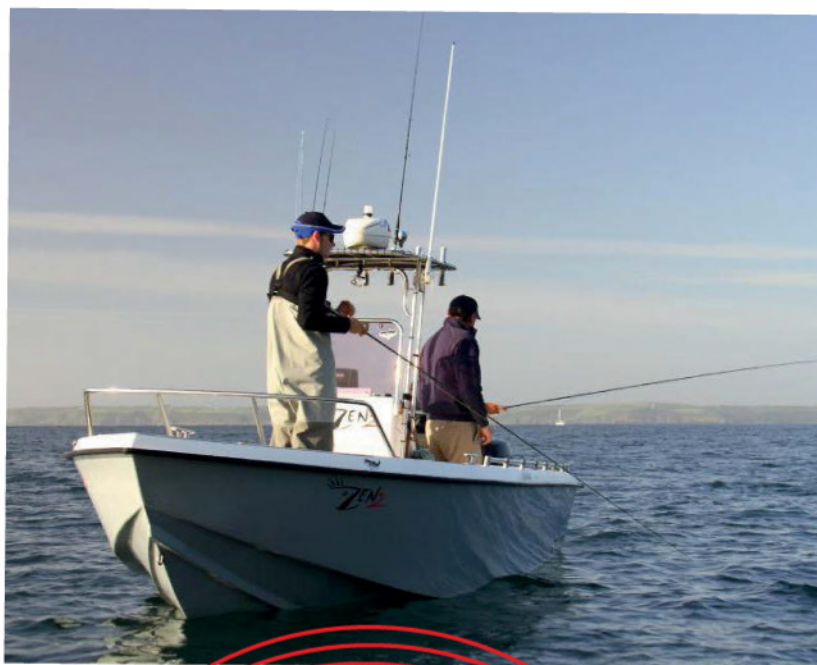
The competition is fished from Kilmore Quay Harbour, a purpose built, modern marina with excellent berthing and boat launching facilities. The species fishing around Kilmore Quay is some of the best in the whole of Ireland; it's not uncommon for over 40 species to be landed during the competition. Festival HQ is located at Coast Rosslare Strand Hotel, Rosslare. This is where anglers gather each night for a chat and a pint, important news from the committee is relayed here and daily competitions are drawn each night too. The Welcome Night is held at Coast Rosslare Strand Hotel on the first Friday of the festival, with the Presentation Night held on the following Friday. **For further information contact John Belger, 98 Dunbar Road, Southport PR8 4RL Tel: 01704 566195/ 07814 422943**



## SEPTEMBER

### UK SALTWATER FLYFISHING FESTIVAL

One of the UK's best flyfishing festivals in one of Cornwall's most beautiful spots. After six very successful years The UK Saltwater Flyfishing Festival will be held from 28 September - 1 October, based and hosted around the historic fishing harbour of St Mawes, Cornwall. Participants will fish from the shoreline, using the many beaches and rocky areas where the sport is to be found. This is a catch and release event. A full social programme is included and there are some superb prizes on offer. Accommodation is available to suit all budgets and there will also be a 'training' day included in the entry price, featuring some of Cornwall's top guides. The 2023 festival will feature a variety of training clinics. There will also be detailed local information, available only to festival participants, of the best local marks and how these vary with tide and wind conditions. Entry costs £90. For more information visit [The UK Saltwater Fly Fishing Festival at saltwaterflyfishinguk.com](http://TheUKSaltwaterFlyFishingFestival.com)



## OCTOBER

### DARTMOUTH FISHING FESTIVAL

The 62 Dartmouth Fishing Festival will take place from 7-9 October. The festival is open to everyone with shore, sea, river and wreck categories covering most species on a percentage basis for specimen fish. The festival attracts between 100-200 anglers, many travelling from right across the country, with a weigh-in every afternoon at the Dartmouth Angling and Boating Association clubhouse. Entry fee is reduced for fishing all three days. **More information on the festival will be available in due course at [www.dartmouthfishingfestival.com](http://www.dartmouthfishingfestival.com)**

### ALDERNEY ANGLING FESTIVAL

Sea Angling 'heaven' on the most northerly Channel Island accessed by small planes from Southampton and Guernsey via Aurigny Airlines. The week-long specimen hunt competition is in its 36th year and cash prizes are awarded for species based on best percentage of the local record list. Bass, conger, tope, huss, bream, pollack, mullet, wrasse, mackerel, garfish and many more are caught and catch and release operates where possible. Guernsey, Jersey and UK teams join together to send tackle in their vans by Channel Seaways in advance from the other islands (and Poole). The autumn fishing can be outstanding from the 900m breakwater with various rock and beach marks and many specimen fish being landed. The spirit and the 'craic' bring back teams and individuals year-on-year and they combine to book self-catering through [www.alderney-accommodation.com](http://www.alderney-accommodation.com) (01481 824139). The festival takes place from 14-21 October. **More information is available from [alderneyanglingfestival@outlook.com](mailto:alderneyanglingfestival@outlook.com). See the festival Facebook page for details of 2022's event.**

## SEPTEMBER

### CORK SMALL BOAT FESTIVAL

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# RESOLUTIONS FOR SUCCESS

Start the New Year as you mean to continue – here are 10 promises to make to yourself which will make 2023 a fishing year to remember

**N**ew Year's resolutions – personal promises made with good intent but rarely put into practice pretty much sums it up. We're all guilty! As a sea angler though, what resolutions should we be considering that will further increase our enjoyment and results, but remain achievable within the time constraints most of us have?

At the outset, to give yourself a greater chance of realising your new ideals, it's important to be realistic and not take on too many unrealistic changes. Consider what you really want to achieve in your fishing. Narrow it down and focus on a specific thing, or couple of things, then put into action a manageable process that works to achieving that aim.

Here are 10 things to consider that individually will help your mindset, improve your angling abilities and increase the fun

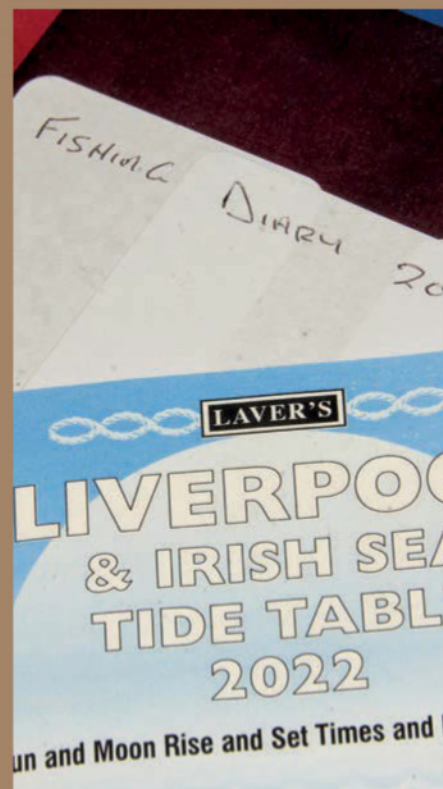
## 1 KEEP A FISHING DIARY

Many years ago, I spent time talking with a very successful commercial skipper. He had the knack of finding fish, and consequently the better market prices, when others were struggling. He was a meticulous man, deliberate in his thoughts. He kept a diary every day of his catches, listed his mistakes, things he could have done differently, and his successes. Also recorded were tide times, heights, wind and weather conditions and many other observations. A major part of his success was that he had records going back decades as to exactly where the fish were, what grounds they were on, the best tides to fish those areas and the best weather conditions. It was a massive edge over his competitors. He called that diary his "little book of gold" which sums it up perfectly.

I've mentioned the importance of keeping a diary many times in the past, the reason being, I've kept a diary since my early teens of every trip I've made. It's invaluable! Fish movement, migration patterns, seasons and feeding behaviour on individual marks and boat venues all quickly become apparent. Above all else it's the key to the magic box of consistent catches.

I record tide size and times, sea conditions, wind direction, weather conditions such as cloud, clear skies, frost, also time fished, rigs, baits and anything else I observe on the day that I feel important. It builds up a picture of fact that eliminates much of the element of

chance. If it's the only change you make this New Year, then you've made a massive stride towards your individual goal by writing your experiences down.







## 2 GET ORGANISED

Watch any top match angler or successful freelancer and the obvious thing is that they are very organised, neat and tidy. Nothing is left to chance! Their tackle boxes won't be stuffed with tackle that covers every eventuality. It will be geared towards what they really need on the day and is stored instantly to hand. During and after a trip, they'll have a list of tackle items that might need to be restocked or replaced.

They'll set up their base camp around the rod rest the same every time, too. This repetition breeds consistency and encourages minimal time wastage during a session to maximise fishing time. They'll instinctively know in the dark exactly where individual items are stored. After use these items immediately go back to their original home.

## 4 GET THE BEST BAIT

What a game changer this is! Alongside the diary, this is the other main contributor to improving catches. Fresh live bait will out fish good frozen bait 5 to 1!

If you can make the time, then there is no substitute for collecting your own bait and being organised in keeping it to maximise its life. Having your own bait fridge or freezer is a major step in the right direction.

Remember, you can always collect bait in the dark after work with the use of a headlight providing safety is kept in mind. A lot of anglers with hectic daytime work schedules do this nowadays and those willing to put this time in again have a huge edge.

If you're too far away from the coast to get your own, then find a good and reliable tackle shop to supply your bait. I've found over the years that building up a working relationship with the retailer and staff pays massive dividends at times when bait is in short supply due to bad weather or difficult tides. Even if your situation changes and you can't go fishing, still pick the bait up and either freeze it down or give it away. What you lose in cash is repaid tenfold by good and reliable bait in the future. ▶

## 3 USE YOUR TIME WISELY

Time is valuable for all of us and for many fishing time is limited to going when you can go, not necessarily when you ideally want to go.

Try though, to put this more in your favour by planning well ahead putting specific dates in your diary around the best tides. Yes, you'll inevitably need to sometimes amend to family or work issues, also adverse weather conditions and the like. My personal experience though, is that a definite date in the diary is far more likely to happen. I will obviously make spontaneous trips but tend to find that such trips are less successful overall than one that has been well planned, mainly because I've ignored the right tides or weather conditions and put the odds against me that much higher.

Also, with a date in the diary, the rest of the family know you are going fishing and there's less likelihood of a date clash. What we do is to have a wall calendar in the kitchen, and I write in any dates I'm intending to fish. This avoids the inevitable, "You never said anything to me!", helping to keep the family and home in harmony.







## 5 BE LIGHTER AND MORE MOBILE

Taking too much tackle per session applies to all of us, especially those like me of advancing years. It's literally a burden that sees us walking with heavy seat boxes and overloaded rod holdalls that restrict our ability to fish where we need to fish. It's no coincidence that the most popular spots to fish are close to car parks. By cutting your gear down you'll be able to walk further beyond where most anglers fish and reach ground that sees much less angling pressure. This simple modification to how you fish is again a major contributor to increasing catches.

Think about what you really need. On clean venues four different rig types and three of each probably covers it. A few packets of hooks, some leader and hook length material, a few swivels, links and crimps, scissors and pliers and you're about there. Work out how many leads you normally use on specific venues. On clean sand, why take more than four or five leads? Some anglers take a rod holdall with four or five rods in. Surely two is enough on most sessions, maybe an additional light rod for alternative techniques.

The best way to sort your gear is to lay it all down on the floor at home and be ruthless. Put gear you really need to one side, the stuff you rarely use to the other. You'll be shocked just how much unnecessary gear you're dragging around. Go light, follow the fish, and you'll increase your fun and double your catch rate!

## 6 TARGET A SPECIFIC SPECIES

Early in the New Year is the time to put plans in place if you want to target a specific species you haven't yet caught. Research is the key here! Go through online forums, Facebook pages, websites and books to identify times, tides, venues and baits. It's worth a message to an angler who's had success with this species before and pick his or her brains. Most will respond in kind and provide a short cut to success.

A good way to achieve your goal is to break the individual factors down. Seasonal timing is ultimately important as is the venue, so research this thoroughly. Get these factors wrong and you've no chance with most species! Weather patterns often dictate how and when a beach or venue will fish best, and this will further refine the timing aspect and venue choice. Break this down further into wind direction and strength which is the single most important factor in exactly when a specific venue or section of venue will produce best. Only when this is complete and comprehensive should you look at bait and rigs. This is the set formula for success. Ignore the rules and you're preparing to fail!



## 7 SPECIES CHALLENGE

One of the most enjoyable challenges, and the most infectious, is undertaking an annual or lifetime species challenge. It opens up a whole new world from standard catch what's there freelance fishing and is guaranteed to raise your skill levels rapidly.

Much depends on where you are based. Southern based anglers can consider a relatively easy initial challenge to catch 20 species within the 12-month calendar. Further north, go for 15 to start. Judge your catches as you go and be ready to up your scores to 25 or 30. The ultimate challenge is 50 species in a year. Some go for the 52 species, one a week challenge which puts it into perspective what you're trying to do. Yes, a few anglers have achieved much better numbers than this, but for most of us with an average amount of free time available, then 30 to 50 species in a year is a massive achievement. It keeps you actively thinking, exposes you to a vast variety of techniques, venues and baits and really gets you thinking about your fishing.

The biggest challenge of all is 100 species as a lifetime target. I set my geographical borders for this as any fish caught within UK and Irish waters to keep costs sensible. Even the most stoic of big fish anglers has fallen for the allure of species fishing. I certainly did and have never regretted it! ►

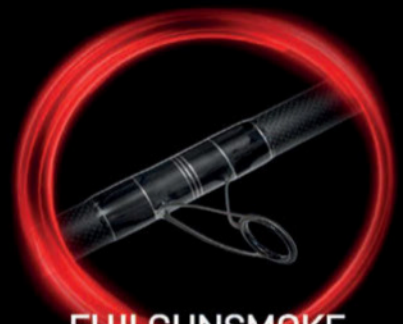




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## 8 FISH A FAMOUS VENUE

When I was young the beaches to fish were Dungeness in Kent for cod, Dinas Dinlle in North Wales for bass and tope, Inch and Stradbally for bass in Ireland. Over time I got to fish all these places and many more, and to feel the mystique, history and significance of them.

We all know time ticks away rapidly and I've left things on the back burner all too often thinking I'll do it next year. It's a big mistake! If you want to fish a particular venue, then plan for it now and do it as soon as you can. That principle of putting it in the diary and working towards that date, even when far off, is again important.

It applies to countries too. Many rightly want to go to Norway, Iceland, maybe America, Mexico, Australia. Finances rule the feasibility of this, but if you really want to go, start saving even tiny amounts and you'll be surprised as to how quickly it builds up. Making that initial move to set things in motion is the key and stick at it!



## 9 VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

It's easy to fall into a rut fishing the same venues and the same tactics for the same species year in and year out. This is identified as the single most likely factor in an angler leaving the sport. The New Year is a time to consider branching out into different areas of sea angling.

If you're a beach or boat angler, how about taking up lure fishing for bass and pollack? It's a completely different way of fishing. It requires minimal gear and will take you to vastly different places. If you're always beach fishing, go and fish piers and breakwaters, or try the estuaries and rock ledges. If you're a boat angler, change ports and fish new ground with new species.

The adage of variety is the spice of life is true and changing the way you fish is a new lease of life with an injection of new enthusiasm that stimulates the mind and renews interest.





## 10 FISH MORE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

I get the greatest pleasure when my lad and I share a day's fishing. Time is scarce as we're both working and live a fair way apart, but every chance we get we'll fish together.

Any day spent with the family is special and taking them fishing equally so. The knack to success on these days with youngsters is to

keep trips short, say no more than a couple of hours or so to avoid boredom. Time it during decent weather and gentle seas and pick easy safe venues where you can target obliging fish such as flounder, school bass, dabs and even dogfish. Young kids love to think they've caught a shark, dogfish being part of the shark family. Have plenty of snacks and drinks with you and keep it simple until they get older or show a deeper interest. The biggest thing is to sacrifice your own fishing and just take tackle for the family. Devote your full and undivided attention to them and you'll have a day to remember.



## 11 SEA ANGLER

We said 10 resolutions at the start, but we'll add in another one. Get yourself a subscription to Sea Angler magazine and keep yourself fully up to date with the latest catches, techniques, hot marks, news and new tackle. A 12-month subscription is one New Year's resolution guaranteed to last the whole year!

**SEE PAGE 108 FOR MORE DETAILS**





# NO TIME TO BE PATIENT

Of all the virtues needed to be a successful bass angler, patience is not one of them – as James Batty explains

**S**pend time by the water and there are questions you hear again and again from chatty dog-walkers. “Had any luck?” That’s a classic. “No,” I want to scream, “I’ve caught some bass, but luck had stuff-all to do with it. Skill, experience, dedication, a willingness to get out of bed in the middle of the night, being blown inside out and soaked to the skin, they all played a part. But not luck, that’s for lotteries.” “Are you fishing?” Amazing how often that one crops up. “Not at all, this is a scientific experiment. My line’s in the sea and I’m holding a long piece of carbon fibre. If there’s an electrical storm I want to see if this lightning conductor can turn me into a Goretex covered crisp in waders.” Of course I’d never say such a thing. When someone’s trying to be friendly I just smile and mumble a few words about the weather. But there’s one question I can’t let go unchallenged. “How can you have the patience for fishing?”

Because bass fishing doesn’t take patience for crying out loud. Exercising a dog takes patience. You throw the tennis ball, your furry friend brings it back, you throw it again. It’s the same day after day. Rover’s not going to pick up a racket and hit a cross-beach topspin forehand, or make a letter T with his paws and demand a video review of your bowling action. He likes no frills running and retrieving, he’d be upset if you altered the game. But when you fish for bass, you have to be ready to go from a rolling maul to potting the pink to throwing the discus at the drop of a rain-sodden hat. Bass behaviour changes from day to day,







even hour to hour. And as anglers we need to change our own behaviour as well.

We catch fish when we use a lure or bait that tickles their fancy, and when we put that lure or bait into a spot where they're feeding. Sounds simple enough, but there are two complicating factors: first bass are fickle eaters, and second they're mobile. One minute they're sucking down sandeels off the beach, take a tea break and they'll be grabbing joey mackerel round the headlands. Keep fishing launce over the sand and you'll need to be as patient as Job in a bank holiday tailback on the A30. So even though everyday language has plenty of terms that make patience sound like a virtue – perseverance, determination, persistence, staying power, sticking to it, toughing it out – patiently fishing the wrong lure or bait through the wrong patch of water won't do you much good.

## WHAT TICKLES THEIR FANCY

Let's start with what they're feeding on. I release a lot of my fish, but I keep some for the kitchen. This has two benefits: tasty meals and some insights into what bass eat on my patch. And when I run through a list of all the bits and bobs I've found in their stomachs – from tiny weed maggots and jelly fry to fist-sized hard crabs and ten inch squid – you might think it really doesn't matter what's on the end of the line. I've never found a Cornish pasty or a portion of chips, I suspect that's because the seagulls get them before they even hit the water. But lugworms, ragworms, whitebait, prawns, crabs, squid, pilchards, mackerel, garfish, clams, mullet, whiting, mussels, sandeels, bass scoff anything, so surely you can use the first lure that comes to hand or the bait that's on top of the pile in the deep freeze. ▶

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No, because there's a wrinkle. At least three-quarters of the bass I clean are binge eaters. They haven't been browsing like adventurous nibblers at a food festival, a worm here, a clam there, then a Cornish sardine. They're stuffed with just one food source, a whole bellyful of fry, mackerel, clams, squid, whatever. They seem to have locked in on a single treat, ignoring anything else. I don't believe fishy brains work like their human counterparts, but I can see where they're coming from. There are days when I lock in on a particular dish, usually a bacon and egg roll. You could try to tempt me with a Michelin starred tasting menu, slap a juicy steak on the grill, wheel past a groaning cheese trolley, I don't care. All I want is my breakfast sandwich. For pudding, maybe an egg and bacon roll. And if I'm still hungry, how about a buttered roll with some bacon and a fried egg.

From a fishing point of view this fixated eating means we need to work out what the bass are feasting on, then either imitate it with a lure or replicate it with a bait. Sometimes there are visual clues, finger mullet splashing, whitebait or sandeels glittering in the wave, jelly fry stranded on the shore. Sometimes a bass I release pays me back by spitting up its last few mouthfuls, telling me what's on today's specials board. Sometimes I can do no more than guess, based on the time of year and experience on my marks. And sometimes I really don't know at all, I need to experiment. Not to clip on a tried and tested lure and patiently keep casting it, to give it a few chucks before switching to something different.

Often I find the most important thing to vary is size. Not everyone seems to agree. When lure-fishers meet they tend to show off their boxes. Birdwatchers probably examine each other's binoculars or lists of species, maybe gardeners compare photos of their prize-winning dahlias and leeks while we look at one another's plugs and plastics. And I'm struck by how many anglers, even the ones who view tackle shopping as a competitive sport, only buy lures that fit neatly in their compartments, 70-odd

**“Some bass hunters are travellers, always hitting the road to go and try somewhere new, a place they read about in a catch report or a magazine. I stick to my handful of local favourite marks, getting to know them better and better”**

centimetres up to about 140. Fine if the bass are on sandeels, baby mullet or joey mackerel. Not so good if they're on whitebait or jelly fry. So if I'm fishing a typical plug, shad or softie and I see follows but no takes, my first reaction is to say something impatient, even rude. My second reaction is to try something smaller. To suggest a whitebait I like a twenty gramme Abu Toby, silver and white. Old-fashioned perhaps – the Toby was launched in 1955 which makes it only three years younger than me – but cheap and effective. Generally I replace the treble with a single, first because it makes it easier to release a

fish, second because it gives a better hook-hold in a large or hard pulling one. When the bass are slurping down jelly fry I use a fly or a small feather, something tied to a size four or six as a rule. I'm a clumsy fly tyer, but I don't think the exact pattern makes much difference as long as the end product's pale, slim and shiny. Of course, on a spinning rod I can't cast a fly by itself, so I use 12lb monofilament to make a leader with a dropper. My jelly fry fly – and try reading that aloud quickly after a beer or three – goes on the dropper, and I put a spoon or a soft plastic on the end to give me some weight.





Match your lure to what the bass are feeding on



A good size eating fish. Inside were two joey mackerel. They were the best bait for the next few days



In moderate seas a bomb weight will roll around into the gullies where the bass are feeding



One calm June morning I went for a wander in a run of coves near where I live. The trouble with June is that the dawn arrives so early that it's hardly worth going to bed. Luckily I'm retired, so I can fish the hours of darkness and catch up on my sleep when it's light, an angling version of Count Dracula, except that I nap on the sofa, not in a coffin. On the last set of tides the bass had been chasing small sandeels, so I started out with a little shad. Not a sniff. Then a weightless soft plastic fished slowly along the water's edge. Still no takes, but a bit of encouragement, as the light started to come up I could see swirls behind the lure. Sometimes this means the bass are trying to grab hold but missing. Much more often I think they're sending a message: "Try again, you clown, my brain may be the size of a pea, but I'm not daft enough to eat that old rubbish, I'm just swimming along behind it so I can laugh at you." So I tried a Toby, cranking it fast and keeping it high in the water, and that did the trick, a two pounder. "OK," I thought, "the whitebait must be in." But as I put my bass back its whole body shivered and out of its mouth came a succession of three quarter inch fry, some still twitching. On with a little silver and white muddler minnow, a big Senko type stick bait on the point so I could cast, and three more bass before the rising sun sent me back to the carpark.

When I fish bait in the surf I'm just as keen to use something the bass are feeding on already. Lure fishing gives lots of choices, my plug box has 12 compartments, and I carry a smaller box for softies and spoons, a few flies as well. I can't imagine lugging dozens of different types of bait along the beach, or spending the sort of money that would involve. But I always have at least one backup. In the summer I might try big sandeel baits with a few frozen mackerel as my alternative. In early autumn mackerel is my top choice, squid in reserve. And by November I switch between squid and razor clam or mussel. One more tip on bait, and I've learned this the hard way: if you're inclined to shove things in your pockets, check them at the end of your session. Leave a few squid in your jacket for a week and the smell never goes away.

## WHERE THEY'RE FEEDING

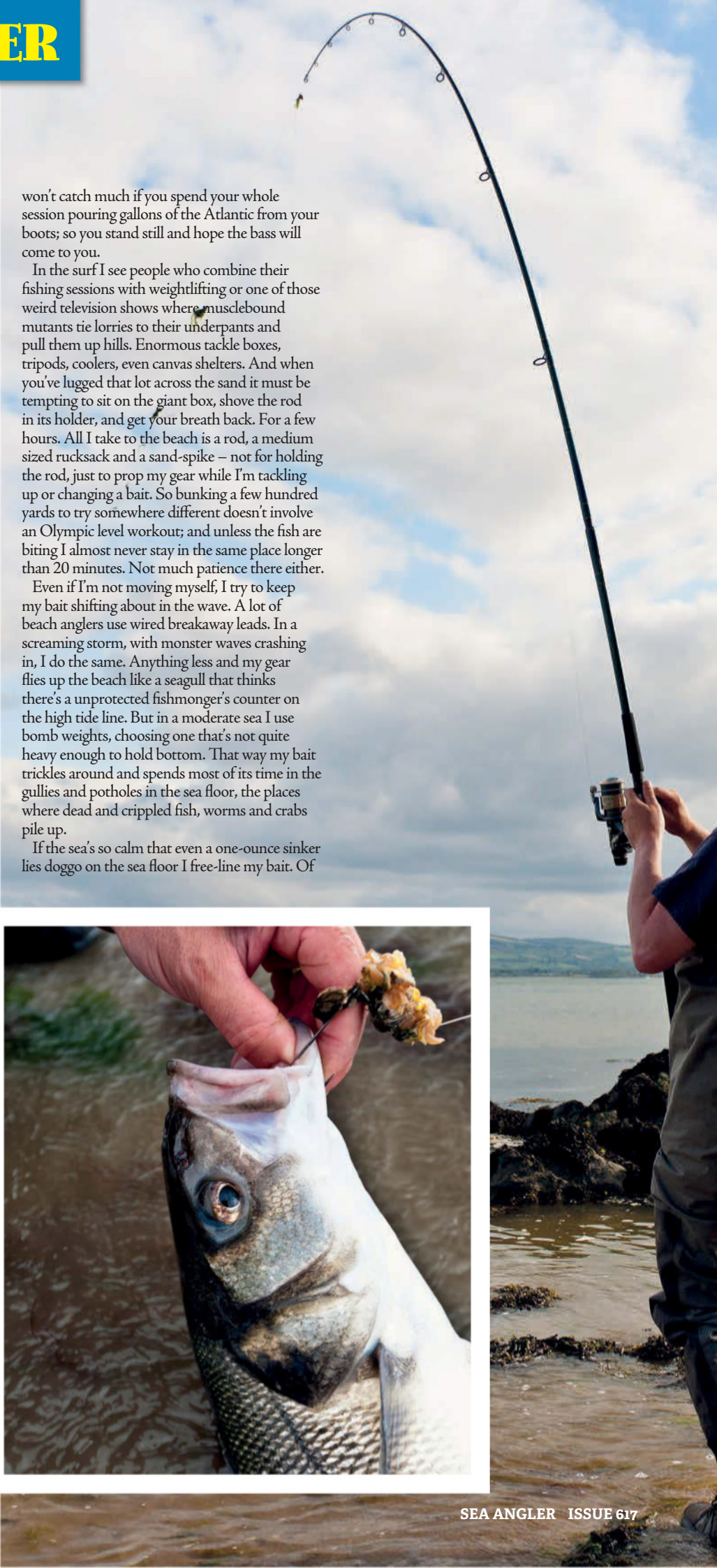
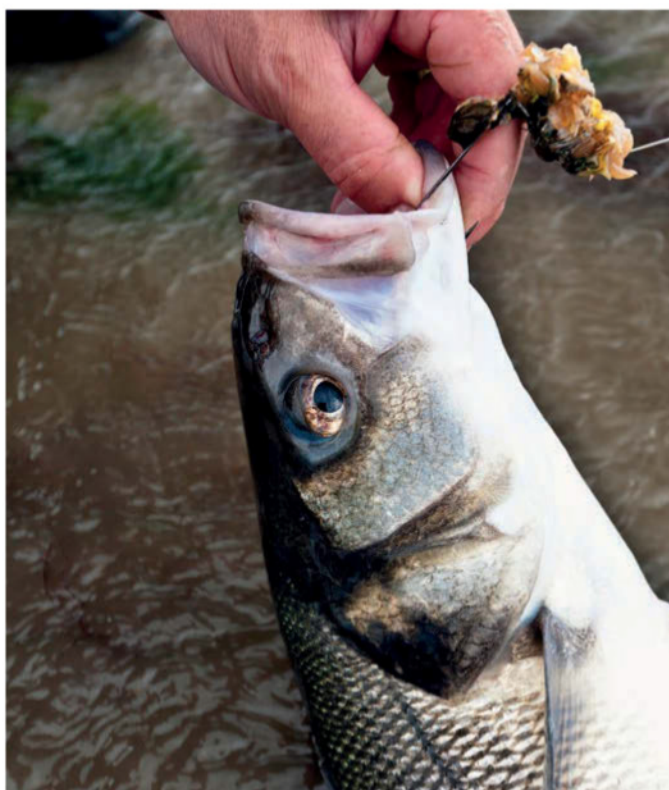
This isn't a piece about finding good spots, but even when you're on a reliable mark you need to be willing and able to move around if there's nothing doing. As Confucius never said, "If the fish aren't here they must be somewhere else." Even so a lot of anglers stay put. People who fish lures tend to travel light, just a rod and a little backpack or bum-bag, so a bit of a hike should be no problem. But they often do all their walking on the way to their fishing areas, then pin themselves down by wading deep into the water. I wear waders as insurance against being drenched by the odd rogue wave, but I like to keep my feet on dry land, worst case in the shallows. I often find the fish close in, and if you're only ankle deep it's easy to go for an impatient wander along the shore. But if you shuffle out into the drink to the point where the top of your chesties is two inches above sea level even a few steps can be tricky, and you certainly

won't catch much if you spend your whole session pouring gallons of the Atlantic from your boots; so you stand still and hope the bass will come to you.

In the surf I see people who combine their fishing sessions with weightlifting or one of those weird television shows where musclebound mutants tie lorries to their underpants and pull them up hills. Enormous tackle boxes, tripods, coolers, even canvas shelters. And when you've lugged that lot across the sand it must be tempting to sit on the giant box, shove the rod in its holder, and get your breath back. For a few hours. All I take to the beach is a rod, a medium sized rucksack and a sand-spike – not for holding the rod, just to prop my gear while I'm tackling up or changing a bait. So bunking a few hundred yards to try somewhere different doesn't involve an Olympic level workout; and unless the fish are biting I almost never stay in the same place longer than 20 minutes. Not much patience there either.

Even if I'm not moving myself, I try to keep my bait shifting about in the wave. A lot of beach anglers use wired breakaway leads. In a screaming storm, with monster waves crashing in, I do the same. Anything less and my gear flies up the beach like a seagull that thinks there's a unprotected fishmonger's counter on the high tide line. But in a moderate sea I use bomb weights, choosing one that's not quite heavy enough to hold bottom. That way my bait trickles around and spends most of its time in the gullies and potholes in the sea floor, the places where dead and crippled fish, worms and crabs pile up.

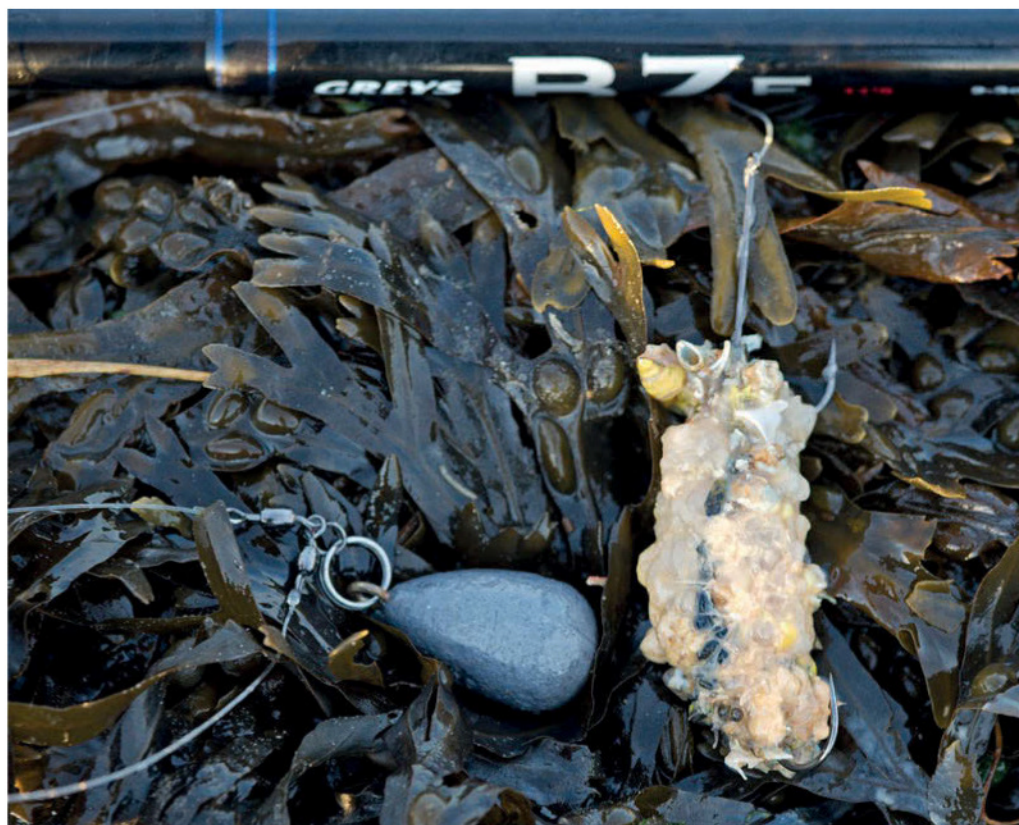
If the sea's so calm that even a one-ounce sinker lies doggo on the sea floor I free-line my bait. Of





course, when your terminal tackle's wandering around all the time you can't rest the rod. You hold it to stay in touch, tightening the line as it moves closer to the shore. You're busy, not just patiently watching a tip light. And why would you rest your rod anyway, it doesn't get tired.

One October, before I retired, I came home from a work trip to see the kind of surf that makes me smile like a Cheshire cat in a seafood restaurant, 6ft waves crunching up the beaches and a bit of colour to the water. Classic big bass conditions in my experience, so next day I was on a local beach a couple of hours before the dawn. The wind had dropped overnight, but the sea was lively enough to have a four-ounce bomb bouncing around a bit, and my first cast came up with a five pounder on a 9in squid bait. Then absolute radio silence on the bass wavelength. I hiked to the other end of the beach, decent exercise on soft sand and in waders, but I might as well have stayed where I was. Then the breeze went around to blow offshore. Search and rescue crews hate offshore winds, lots of callouts to save twits who've drifted away on their paddleboards or set off on transatlantic voyages on inflatable beach toys. I



don't like them either, in Mount's Bay they flatten the wave in two shakes of a conger's tail. And by the time the sun came over the horizon, bedtime for vampires like me, I'd gone from a four-ounce weight to a two ounce to no weight at all. Three more decent bass, the smallest a four pounder. And I'd lost patience with squid and switched to mackerel as well.

When it comes to finding fishing marks I do one thing that possibly could be construed as patient. I stick to just a few rocky spots for the lures, a handful of beaches for bait in the surf. The areas where bass feed can be small and very specific. Intuitively we all know this. You can flay a bit of water till you have bursitis in your shoulder, a stiff ulnar ligament in your elbow and a whole lexicon of crude words on your lips. Move 20 yards along the rocks and the aches and pains vanish as bass after bass provides the best pain therapy money can't buy. A bait 40 yards out can lie on the bottom unloved to the point where you'd wonder if it has a personal hygiene problem. Reel in half a cricket pitch and it wins the prize for sweetest smelling squid in Cornwall, fish fighting one another to grab it.

When the magic spots are small I think you need to know your terrain like the back of your hand. Rather better in fact, I can't see the back of my hand very well without my reading glasses. And the back of my hand stays more or less the same shape from week to week, while the shore rebuilds itself every time there's a big set of tides or a wild Atlantic storm. Some bass hunters are travellers, always hitting the road to go and try somewhere new, a place they read about in a catch report or a magazine. I stick to my handful of local favourite marks, getting to know them better and better.

Besides I get bored in the car, impatient to wet a line. There's a beach I like less than a mile and a half from my front door. It has a couple of streams draining across the sand, and these often scour out deep depressions. When the tide's in these underwater cavities fill up with all sorts of drifting debris: weed, rubbish and lots of dead fish and crabs. The odd thing is that the depressions move along the shore, as much as a hundred yards. One summer we had biblical rainstorms. Well, most summers we have biblical rainstorms, but we pretend they're unusual to encourage our holidaymaker business. Anyway the runoff from the storms excavated a really deep pit just below the low tide line. It was small, maybe two tennis courts, but the bottom dropped away at least a yard, and it was bass central. So one August morning I was down there with a bag of joey mackerel and I had three fish in the first half hour. 50 yards to my left was another fellow. He looked like a serious bass hunter, holding his rod and keeping his light well away from the water. I wandered along for a yarn and found he'd been there all night for a flounder or two. "I can't work it out," he said, "I was here last year, same time, and this was a brilliant spot, there was a trough on the seabed, rammed with bass." I suggested he move along closer to me, and he started catching fish right away.

"How did you know where to find them?" he asked. Not from some stroke of genius, I told him, just that I spend a lot of time wandering about on my marks, impatiently looking to see what's changed.

So back to the lovely dog-walkers I meet on the shore. I'm thinking of having a t-shirt printed for them: "Yes, I'm fishing. Bass fishing isn't a matter of luck. It certainly isn't a matter of patience." ■



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These rods offer exceptional performance both in terms of casting and fishing at a price point that makes them very accessible.

**four&bait rod mk2**

Surfcasting Rods	RRP	OUR PRICE
13ft 3-Size Fixed Spool	£205	£179.99
13ft 3-Size Multiplier	£205	£179.99
14ft 3-Size Fixed Spool	£215	£189.99
14ft 3-Size Multiplier	£215	£189.99

**six&bait rod mk2**

Surfcasting Rods	RRP	OUR PRICE
13ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£235	£199.99
13ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£235	£199.99
14ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£245	£199.99
14ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£245	£199.99
15ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£255	£209.99
15ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£255	£209.99

**SONIK GRAVITY X5 HT**

Unground carbon finish at reel joints makes it easier to take apart after use + Ultra hollow carbon tip for easy line detection in poor light conditions + Fuji corrosion control frames provide 7 times more corrosion resistance + Shrink wrap on the lower handle to improve grip whilst casting + Super lightweight high modulus carbon blank + X5 multi-directional nanofibre tip section lay-up + Fuji Akzonite K Series guides + Fuji DPS reel fitting

It's an absolutely fantastic shore rod 'The ultimate power is utterly immense and evident during the casting process'

Paul Fenech - Sea Angler review issue 566 Jan/Feb '19

**HT**

14ft 5-7oz - 2 Piece RRP £329.99 **£249.99**  
15ft 4in - 4-8oz - 3 Piece RRP £349.99 **£259.99**

A true all rounder...

**SHIMANO SURF RODS**

Fishing rods for beach fishing

**ALIVIO BX Tubular Tip Surf Rods**

- Fast action composite blank
- Excellent combination of distance casting performance and value for money
- Shimano anti-tangle stainless steel Hardline guides
- Shimano DPS-type reel seat

RRP	NOW
13ft 11in Tubular 225g	£59.99 <b>£49.99</b>
14ft 9in Tubular 225g	£69.99 <b>£54.99</b>

**VENGEANCE - Surf / Rough Ground Rods**

RRP	NOW
14ft Tubular Fixed 225g	£99.99 <b>£79.99</b>
14ft Gin Tubular Fixed 225g	£104.99 <b>£84.99</b>
14ft Solid Fixed 225g	£99.99 <b>£79.99</b>
14ft Gin Solid Fixed 225g	£104.99 <b>£84.99</b>

**Surf Rough Ground Rods**

RRP	NOW
13ft Multiplier 225g	£104.99 <b>£89.99</b>

**NEXAVE - Surf Rods**

RRP	NOW
13ft Surf Lite / Rough Ground Rods	£120g <b>£139.99</b>
13ft Tubular / Rough 225g	£139.99 <b>£99</b>

**Surf Rods**

RRP	NOW
14ft Tubular Plate 225g	<b>SOLD OUT</b>
14ft Gin Tubular Screw 225g	<b>SOLD OUT</b>
14ft Solid Plate 225g	<b>SOLD OUT</b>
14ft Gin Solid Screw 225g	<b>SOLD OUT</b>

**SHIMANO SURFCASTING REELS**

**Aerlex 1000XS8 Surf Casting Reel** RRP £94.99 **£69.99**

**Speedmaster 14000XS8 Surf Casting Reel** RRP £129.99 **£99.99**

**Ultra XSD 5500 Surf Reel / Big Pig Reel** RRP £154.99 **£129.99**

**Ultra 14000 Reel** RRP £174.99 **£119**

**Ultra XSE 14000 Reel** RRP £179.99 **£119**

**Ultra C14+ 14000 XSC Reel** RRP £279.99 **£229.99**

**SHIMANO BASS RODS FOR 2022**

**VENGEANCE CX SEA BASS RODS**

RRP	NOW
9ft 6-28g 2 Piece	£149.99 <b>£159.99</b>
9ft 8-42g 2 Piece	£159.99 <b>£159.99</b>

**BASSTERRA BASS RODS**

RRP	NOW
8ft LRF 3-15g 2 Piece	£49.99 <b>£44.99</b>
7ft 2in LRF 1-11g 2 Piece	£44.99 <b>£44.99</b>
8ft 6-28g 2 Piece	£64.99 <b>£64.99</b>
9ft 6-28g 2 Piece	£69.99 <b>£69.99</b>
9ft 7-30g 12-38g 2 Piece	£74.99 <b>£74.99</b>

**DIALUNA BASS RODS**

RRP	NOW
8ft 3-21g 2 Piece	£229.99 <b>£229.99</b>
9ft 3-21g 2 Piece	£229.99 <b>£229.99</b>
9ft 6-28g 2 Piece	£229.99 <b>£229.99</b>
9ft 8-45g 2 Piece	£229.99 <b>£229.99</b>
10ft 10-56g 2 Piece	£229.99 <b>£229.99</b>

**LUNAMIS BASS RODS**

RRP	NOW
8ft 6in 6-25g 7-35g 2 Piece	£299.99 <b>£299.99</b>
9ft 5-21g 6-25g 2 Piece	£299.99 <b>£299.99</b>
9ft 6in 7-35g 10-45g 2 Piece	£299.99 <b>£299.99</b>

**BLUE PERFORMANCE ULTRA POWERGAME SALTWATER SPINNING RODS**

RRP	NOW
8ft 40-100g 2 Piece	£299.99 <b>£299.99</b>
9ft 40-100g 2 Piece	£299.99 <b>£299.99</b>
10ft 40-100g 2 Piece	£299.99 <b>£299.99</b>

**SHIMANO SALTWATER LURE REELS**

**SO CORRO** 4 MODELS from **£94.99**

**STRADIC C14+** 2 MODELS from **£154.99**

**STRADIC FL** 11 MODELS from **£154.99**

**SPHEROS SW** 3 MODELS from **£94.99**

**SPHEROS SW-A** 8 MODELS from **£164.99**

**ULTEGRA FC** 10 MODELS from **£124.99**

**SARAGOSA SW-A** 8 MODELS from **£179.99**

**SAVAGE GEAR** It's a savage world

**5652 ALL-ROUND RODS**

RRP	NOW
8ft 7-25g 2 Piece	£69.99 <b>£69.99</b>
8ft 10-35g 2 Piece	£69.99 <b>£69.99</b>
9ft 10-45g 2 Piece	£69.99 <b>£69.99</b>

**5654 PRECISION LURE SPECIALIST RODS**

RRP	NOW
9ft 7-25g 2 Piece	£99.99 <b>£99.99</b>
9ft 10-35g 2 Piece	£99.99 <b>£99.99</b>
9ft 10-45g 2 Piece	£99.99 <b>£99.99</b>

**5656 ALL-ROUND RODS**

RRP	NOW
8ft 7-25g 2 Piece	£184.99 <b>£184.99</b>
8ft 10-35g 2 Piece	£184.99 <b>£184.99</b>
9ft 10-45g 2 Piece	£184.99 <b>£184.99</b>

**5655 PRECISION LURE SPECIALIST RODS**

RRP	NOW
9ft 7-25g 2 Piece	£174.99 <b>£174.99</b>
9ft 10-35g 2 Piece	£174.99 <b>£174.99</b>
9ft 10-45g 2 Piece	£174.99 <b>£174.99</b>

**5658 PRECISION LURE SPECIALIST RODS**

RRP	NOW
9ft 7-25g 2 Piece	£299.99 <b>£299.99</b>
9ft 10-35g 2 Piece	£299.99 <b>£299.99</b>
9ft 10-45g 2 Piece	£299.99 <b>£299.99</b>

Watch the Henry Gilbey Video

**ASSO FISHING LINE & RYOZO BRAID**

George Smith: I have used line 1 year nothing else. Asso. Ultra is in my opinion the best.

Richard Yates: Asso have such a huge range of products. They have something for every possibility.

Steve Lewis: You need lines you can rely on when casting. Asso have a great selection.

Line	Length	Weight	Price
Ryco Sea Braid	4 Strand 300m	2 Colours	£14.99
Ryco Sea Braid	4 Strand 300m	2 Colours	£17.99
Classic Mainline	4oz Spool	Clear	£4.99
Classic Mainline	4oz Spool	Yellow	£4.99
Hard Skin Mono	4oz Spool	3 Colours	£9.99
Bullet Proof	4oz Spool	Brown	£9.99
Ultracast	4oz Spool	4 Colours	£12.99
Ultra Mono	4oz Spool	Clear	£16.99
Tapered Mainline	220m		£10.99
Ultraflex Leader	6m	4 Colours	£4.99
Ultraflex Shock Leader	4oz Spool	2 Colours	£10.99
Ultraflex Shock Leader	4oz Spool	2 Colours	£9.99

SEE FULL DETAILS AND SPECIFICATIONS ON OUR WEBSITE

**anyfish anywhere**

**NEW FOR 2022**

**PRO RED LABEL SERIES**

The worlds first truly Professional standard beach fishing rods

**Grand Prix Pro MK2**

This new slimmed down version is lighter by about 3oz's and has a 24mm butt + Reducer.

Multiplier 13ft 10in - Casts 4-7oz (150-200g) RRP NOW **£550 £469.99**

**Estuary Rods MK2**

11ft - Casts 30-100g RRP NOW **£220 £189.99**  
12ft - Casts 30-100g RRP NOW **£225 £199.99**

**Tournament GBFS Pro MK2**

Fixed Spool 14ft + Reducer Casts 4-8oz (112-225g) RRP NOW **£525 £459.99**

**Tournament Match Pro MK2**

Multiplier 13ft 11in + Reducer Casts 4-7oz (112-200g) RRP NOW **£525 £469.99**

**Bass Pro Mk1**

12ft 6in - 100-175g RRP **£325**

**SONIK BEACH BOSS**

**NEW FOR 2022**

**BACK IN BLACK**

**DOMINATOR XS**

**MATCH** 13ft 4-6oz MFS - **£134.99**  
**SPORT** 13ft 4-6oz MFS - **£144.99**

**11ft 6in - 2-4oz MFS - £79.99**  
**13ft - 4-6oz MFS - £99.99**  
**14ft - 5-7oz MFS - £109.99**

**SHIMANO SPEEDMASTER - BXG Surf Rods**

**SURF RODS**

Fishing rods for beach fishing

**SPEEDMASTER Lite Rod + 2 Tips**

- High Modulus Full Carbon + HPC blank with Nanosheet technology produces lighter, stronger blank with increased responsiveness & casting distance
- Full line K Type anti-tangle guides
- Fuji DPS reel seat
- Ultra sensitive solid tip design
- Extra fast action for increased tip speed when casting

RRP	NOW
13ft 120g / 4.25oz	£194.99 <b>£129</b>

**SPEEDMASTER - Beach Rods**

High Modulus Full Carbon + HPC blank with Nanosheet technology produces lighter, stronger blank with increased responsiveness and casting distance.

RRP	NOW
14ft 9in Solid + 3 Tips 120g / 4oz	£214.99 <b>£139</b>
15ft 5in Solid 150g / 6oz	£214.99 <b>£115</b>

**SHIMANO SURFCASTING REELS**

**Surfleader C14+** RRP £284.99 **£214.99**

**Power Aero 14000 XSD Reel** RRP £379.99 **£319.99**

**Fliegen 355D Reel** RRP £419.99 **£369.99**

**Bull's Eye 9120 Reel** RRP £379.99 **£349.99**

**Bull's Eye 9100 Reel** RRP £379.99 **£349.99**

**Aero Technium MgS XSD 14000 Reel** RRP £619.99 **£619.99**

**DIAMMA BASS LURE RODS**

Fishing rods for sea bass fishing

**SALTIST - Bass Spinning Rods**

- HVF High Volume Fibre
- K45 Technology

RRP	NOW
8ft 10-35g	£170 <b>£139</b>
8ft 6in 10-35g	£175 <b>£145</b>
9ft 10-35g	£180 <b>£149</b>

**SALTIST - Spinning Rods**

RRP	NOW
10ft 14-60g	£150 <b>£119</b>
11ft 6in 28-84g	£150 <b>£125</b>

**Whisker - Bass Spinning Rods**

Designed to cover the multitude of fishing styles, across lure and bait with monofilament or braid

RRP	NOW
8ft Medium-Heavy 5-40g	£170 <b>£137.99</b>
9ft Medium-Heavy 10-40g	£180 <b>£141.99</b>
10ft Heavy 10-60g	£200 <b>£151.99</b>
11ft Heavy 10-60g	£200 <b>£159.99</b>

**SHIMANO SALTWATER LURE REELS**

**VANFORD** 13 MODELS from **£179.99**

**VANQUISH** 9 MODELS from **£369.99**

**STELLA FK** 14 MODELS from **£599.99**

**TWIN POWER FD** 11 MODELS from **£299.99**

**TWIN POWER XDF** 6 MODELS from **£334.99**

**TWIN POWER SW-C** 11 MODELS from **£349.99**

**STELLA SW-C** 14 MODELS from **£679.99**

**SAVAGE GEAR BASS LURES**

Working with Henry Gilbey, Savage have produced an amazing new range of soft plastics. Read his blog on our website

**Gravity Stick Pintail Bass Lure - 14cm 15g - 6pc** RRP £9.99 **£5.99**

**Gravity Stick Puddletail Bass Lure - 14cm 15g - 6pc** RRP £9.99 **£5.99**

**Gravity Stick Pintail Bass Lure - 14cm 15g - 6pc** RRP £9.99 **£5.99**

**Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10cm 30g Sinking** RRP £6.69 **£4.99**

**Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10cm 30g** RRP £6.69 **£4.99**

**Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10cm 30g** RRP £6.69 **£4.99**

**Bullet Mullet Floating Lure** 10cm - 17.3g **£11.99**  
11cm - 23.5g **£11.99**

**ACCESSORIES**

**Rattle & Spike Kit 1.7g 6+pc** RRP £7.49 **£6.49**

**#6/0 Weedless Hooks 6pc** RRP £6.99 **£5.99**  
3g - 4pc RRP £6.99 **£5.99**



**AKIOS** **AIRPOWER SURF 420 GTR MKII BLACK EDITION**

THE 2 PIECE GLASS TIPPED AIRPOWER

CONTINENTAL ROD • 2PIECE • 4.2m/14ft  
112-224g/4-8oz

Akios AirPower 420 GTR Continental Rod • 4.2m 14ft - MKII Black Edition. When developing the AIRPOWER GTR there was one primary objective, to develop a true all-round fishing rod suitable for varied fishing situations, one that offers ample power to cast large baits for large fish if needed, yet equally capable of flicking out a bunch of rayworm for plaice, and offering the feel and feedback through the blank to maximise the enjoyment of the fight.

RRP £449.99 **£399.99**

**AKIOS** **AIRPOWER SURF 435 SRS MKII BLACK EDITION**

YOU CAN TAME 'THE BEAST'

CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE • 4.35m/14ft 6in • 120-225g/4-8oz

Now With Sliding Reel Seat Ideal For Fixed Spool And Multipliers. It Allows The Angler to Position The Reel High Or Low On The Rod. Arguably the most powerful three-piece continental style rod on the market, the AKIOS AIRPOWER has been designed with one thing in mind, to offer EXTREME casting capabilities. With its insanely powerful high modulus HMX46T carbon construction, progressive action and lightning fast recovery, the AIRPOWER sets new standards for modern three-piece rods.

RRP £439.99 **£389.99**

**AKIOS** **AIRPOWER SURF 435 RXP MKII BLACK EDITION**

THE THREE PIECE BEAST!

CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE • 4.35m/14ft 6in • 120-225g/4-8oz

Arguably the most powerful three-piece continental style rod on the market, the AKIOS AIRPOWER has been designed with one thing in mind, to offer EXTREME casting capabilities. With its insanely powerful high modulus HMX46T carbon construction, progressive action and lightning fast recovery, the rod sets new standards for modern three-piece rods.

HIGH MODULUS NRG • HMX46T CARBON BLANK • HYBRID / SPLICED CARBON • TIP FOR ULTIMATE BITE DETECTION

RRP £439.99 **£389.99**

**AKIOS** **AIRTORQUE SURF 435 MKII BLACK EDITION**

THE TORQUE OF THE BEACH!

CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE • 4.35m/14.5ft CARBON CONSTRUCTION • 112-220g/4-8oz

WHEN EXTRA POWER IS NEEDED

The new AKIOS AIRTORQUE is set to be a big hit, offering even greater power and greater casting potential than the Airspeed. The AIRTORQUE, with its higher modulus HMX 43T carbon construction, offers 20% more power through the butt, middle and lower tip section, giving extra power during casting and quicker line pick up giving faster hook penetration.

RRP £399.99 **£359.99**

**AKIOS** **AIRSPEED SURF 435 MKII BLACK EDITION**

THE BEST JUST GOT EVEN BETTER...

CONTINENTAL • 3 PIECE • 4.35m/14.6ft • 112-225g/4-8oz

Striking looks that will turn the heads of envious anglers right along the beach, but more importantly, the outstanding casting performance will enable baits to be sent out further and cover a wider expanse of ground than ever before.

RRP £379.99 **£339.99**

**AKIOS** **AIRTORQUE 435**

THE TORQUE OF THE BEACH!

3 PIECE • CARBON CONSTRUCTION • 4.35m/14.5ft • 110-220g/4-8oz

WHEN EXTRA POWER IS NEEDED

The new AKIOS AIRTORQUE is set to be a big hit, offering even greater power and greater casting potential than the Airspeed. The AIRTORQUE, with its higher modulus HMX 43T carbon construction, offers 20% more power through the butt, middle and lower tip section, giving extra power during casting and quicker line pick up giving faster hook penetration.

RRP £399.99 **£299.99**

**AKIOS** **MOMENTUM SLR**

LIGHT YEARS AHEAD!

CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE

The Akios MOMENTUM SLR is a new breed of ultra-lightweight match rods for the very finest quality from AKIOS. Weighing in at just 445g, the MOMENTUM 425 SLR has been designed for modern match anglers seeking to send baits out over very long distances. The smooth actioned, progressively powerful blank aids in preserving delicate baits during hard casting, while the power mesh carbon butt section offers the power reserves needed to send larger baits and leads out over vast distances.

RRP ~~£429.99~~ **£379.99**

**AKIOS** **UTOPIA SX 420**

CONTINENTAL ROD 3 PIECE • 4.2m/14ft • 112-225g/4-8oz

The Akios UTOPIA is a superb all-round combination plentiful power, fast recovery, lightness and bite detection. The phosphorescent glow-in-the-dark tip is a godsend during night sessions. The tip slowly emits light energy absorbed from a headlight ensuring sight of tip action whether or not direct light is present.

RRP £329.99 **£239.99**

**AKIOS** **ENDURANCE PRO RS2**

A VERSATILE DUO... IN ONE!

3 PIECE (Plus extra tip section) • 4.26m/14ft • 112-225g/4-8oz

Specifically designed for the modern shore angler that demands versatility without compromising on performance, the dual-tipped AKIOS ENDURANCE PRO is built around a high modulus HMX40T carbon blank. It generates a remarkable amount of casting power.

RRP ~~£269.99~~ **£229.99**

**AKIOS** **HELLRAZOR 420 SS**

Fish out of range? GIVE 'EM HELL!

3 PIECE • 4.2m/14ft • 112-225g/4-8oz

The Akios Hellrazor SS 420 offers outstanding performance at an affordable price including fuji guides and fuji reel seat. The AKIOS HELLRAZOR is a powerful blank that still holds its high energy carbon power tip easily. Developed for the angler that's seeking to add extra yardage to their cast.

RRP £169.99 **£139.99**

**AKIOS** **WHEN DISTANCE MATTERS SHUTTLE**

A forward thinking company based in the UK. Developed by anglers for anglers who demand new, innovative and durable fishing tackle.

6 Models - from £189.99

**NITRON F-15** £199.99  
**S-LINE** 5 Models - from £129.99  
**TOURNO** 3 Models - from £229.99  
**DYNAMO** 2 Models - from £79.99

**AKIOS** **SURFCASTING REELS**

Fishing reels for beach fishing

**Fury FX8** Fixed spool reel RRP £74.99 **£64.99**  
**Fireloop** Fixed spool reel RRP £109.99 **£89.99**  
**The Guvnor GUV GX8** Fixed spool reel RRP £149.99 **£89**  
**Air Loop R8 / R10** Long cast fixed spool reel R8 - RRP £146.99 **£124.99** 10 - RRP £154.99 **£134.99**  
**Utopia CX8 / SX8** Fixed spool reel CX8 - RRP £129.99 **£109.99** SX8 - RRP £169.99 **£134.99**  
**Ironloop AK100** Fixed spool reel RRP £229.99 **£199**

**AKIOS** **CROSSCAST 33 - Surf Rods**

Designed for distance beach work with a big fixed spool, over clean to medium ground. The built in carbon Hybrid Tip, ensures bite detection across the species mix, especially where smaller 'match' watering fish matter.

RRP ~~£115~~ **£79**  
13ft 10in Hybrid Tip 100-225g £115 **£79**  
14ft 10in Hybrid Tip 100-225g £130 **£89**

**SANDSTORM - Surf Rods**

- Premium Carbon Blanks • Fuji BRC Butt Cap
- Split EVA Grip Handle • Sliding DPS Reel Seat
- SEAGUIDE Deep Drawn Frame Guides
- Aluminum Guide Ring

RRP ~~£170~~ **£129**  
12ft 6in Multiplier 100-200g £170 **£129**  
13ft 6in Multiplier 100-200g £180 **£129**  
14ft 2in Multiplier 100-200g £183 **£129**  
12ft 6in Fixed Spool 100-200g £170 **£129**  
13ft 6in Fixed Spool 100-200g £180 **£129**

**AKIOS** **SALTIST - Surf Rods**

RRP ~~£220~~ **£169**  
12ft 6in Multiplier 100-200g £220 **£169**  
13ft 6in Multiplier 100-200g £245 **£189**  
14ft 2in Multiplier 100-200g £250 **£189**  
14ft Fixed Spool 84-150g £265 **£179**  
14ft Fixed Spool Hybrid 3-6oz £265 **£179**  
15ft Fixed Spool Hybrid 3-6oz £280 **£199**

**TOURNAMENT - PRO Surf Rods**

RRP ~~£260~~ **£229.99**  
2 Piece 11ft 6in Bass Fixed Spool 2-4oz £260 **£229.99**  
13ft 6in Multiplier 3-7oz £339 **£299.99**  
14ft 6in Multiplier 4-8oz £359 **£319.99**

**TOURNAMENT - HT Surf Rods**

RRP ~~£325~~ **£259**  
14ft Fixed Spool Hybrid 3-6oz £325 **£259**  
15ft Fixed Spool Hybrid 3-6oz £345 **£279**

**AKIOS** **MULTIPLIER SURF REELS**

7HT Millionaire Tournament RRP £215 **£149.99**  
7HT Millionaire Mag RRP £385 **£269.99**  
7HT Millionaire Mag Super Tuned RRP £375 **£399.99**  
SL20SH Sealine Sloop RRP £130 **£89.99**  
SL30SH Sealine Sloop RRP £130 **£89.99**

**AKIOS** **SURF REELS for 2022**

Fishing reels for beach fishing

**Shorecast - 5000B** Fixed spool surf reel RRP £94.99 **£79.99**  
**Shorecast - 6000B** Fixed spool surf reel RRP £94.99 **£79.99**  
**20 Crosscast** 35 SCW 5000C QD Surf reel RRP £110 **£89.99**  
**20 Crosscast** 45 SCW 5000C QD Surf reel RRP £140 **£109.99**  
**19 Emblem** Surf 45 SCW QD Surfcasting reel RRP £190 **£159.99**  
**20 T Basia** 45 SCW 5000C QD Surf reel RRP £790 **£639**



## DAIWA BOAT RODS

Fishing rods suitable for boat trips

Seahunter 2 Boat Rods - 2 piece - 4 Models.....	from £59
Saltist Boat Rods - 2 piece - 3 Models.....	from £149
Tournament Boat Rods - 2 piece - 5 Models.....	RRP £205 from £159
Team Daiwa X Boat Rods - 2 piece - 3 Models.....	from £129

Kenzaki Super Boat Rods - 2, 3 & 4 piece - 13 Models from £139.99

## DAIWA KENZAKI

"Nothing short of superb"

Sea Angler Review, June 2019

Read the review by **DAVID BARHAM** on our website

Super Kenzaki FS (Fixed Spool) Boat Rod

6-12lb, 6-15lb, 12-20lb, 15-25lb, 20-30lb or 30-50lb  
7, 7'6" or 8' RRP £190 £149.99

BG Magsealed Spinning Reel  
7 Models - RRP £180-£225 from £159

**A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN**

## SHIMANO BOAT RODS

**VENGEANCE** AX SLIM BOAT RODS

The go-to rods for anglers who want to start fishing for sea bass & for anglers who are on a tight budget.

2 Piece	RRP	NOW	8ft	10-50g	RRP	NOW	
7ft 6in - 12-20lb - 2 Piece.....	£69.99	£55	7ft 7-35g.....	£31.99	£28.99	8ft 10-50g.....	£42.99
7ft 6in - 20-30lb - 2 Piece.....	£69.99	£55	7ft 10-50g.....	£35.99	£32.99	8ft 10-100g.....	£44.99
7ft 6in - 30-50lb - 2 Piece.....	£69.99	£54.99	8ft 10-50g.....	£35.99	£32.99	8ft 10-100g.....	£44.99

**VENGEANCE** CX SEA BASS RODS

Designed for pilk / softbait fishing for cod, coalfish and small halibut.

RRP	NOW
6ft 10in - 70-140g.....	£224.99
7ft 10in - 100-200g.....	£54.99
8ft 10in - 70-140g.....	£59.99

**VENGEANCE** PILK RODS

## SHIMANO STAND-UP BOAT RODS

**TIAGRA** HYPER STAND-UP

RRP NOW  
1.75m - 30lb..... £259.99 £199.99  
1.6m - 80lb Best Butt..... £474.99 £439.99

**TIAGRA** ULTRA GAME STAND-UP

RRP NOW  
5'5" - 80lb..... £604.99 £579.99  
5'5" - 30lb - 50lb..... £604.99 £599

**TIAGRA** LTD EDITION ULTRA A STAND-UP

RRP NOW  
5'5" - 80lb..... SOLD OUT

## SHIMANO STAND-UP BOAT RODS

Fishing rods for sea fishing

**TLD** - A Stand-Up Boat Rods

This rod is the perfect choice when you want to fish for big tuna or shark.

- XT60 + Biofibre blank
- Machined from marine grade aluminium and anodized to prevent corrosion.

RRP	NOW
1.67m - 20lb.....	£114.99 £99.99
1.67m - 30lb Roller.....	£189.99 £169.99
1.67m - 50lb Roller.....	£194.99 £174.99
1.67m - 80lb Roller.....	£194.99 £174.99

**TYRROS** - A Stand-Up Boat Rods

- Ideal for UK Shark Fishing
- ALPS heavy duty SIC lined guides
- Full Carbon + HPC + Biofibre blanks
- High pressure carbon stands
- Pacific Bay Reelseat

RRP	NOW
1.67m - 30lb.....	£224.99 £199.99
1.67m - 50lb.....	£234.99 £209.99
1.67m - 80lb.....	£249.99 £234.99

**TIAGRA** - Hyper Stand-Up Boat Rods

- High pressure carbon stands
- AFTD guides
- Pacific Bay Reelseat

RRP	NOW
1.75m - 30lb.....	£359.99 £329.99
1.75m - 50lb Best Butt.....	£379.99 £349.99
1.6m - 80lb Best Butt.....	£474.99 £439.99

**TIAGRA** - Ultra Game Stand-Up Boat Rods

Shimano's flagship trolling rod with the latest carbon technology - Spiral X + H Power X

RRP	NOW
5ft 4in - 50lb.....	£604.99 £579.99
5ft 4in - 80lb.....	£604.99 £579.99

## SHIMANO SALTWATER TRAVEL RODS

Travel rods for sea fishing

**STC** - Travel Boat Saltwater Spinning Rods

The STC Boat spinning rods are super compact, but at the same time light, strong, and versatile in use. They can be used for both jugging and casting and they are the ideal rods to bring all around the world to fish the salty waters.

RRP	NOW
7ft 2in - 20-30lb.....	£144.99 £115
7ft 2in - 30-50lb.....	£144.99 £99
7ft 10in - 100-200g.....	£134.99 £114.99
7ft 10in - 150-300g.....	£134.99 £114.99

**STC** - Dualtip Powergame Travel Boat Rod

Designed to give you as many possibilities with one rod as possible. With one single rod and one extra tip, you can make two fully different rods with two different casting weights and two different lengths. This is the ultimate rod for every angler who likes to explore new places or goes on a holiday but does not know exactly what to expect regarding fishing conditions and fish species.

RRP	NOW
6ft 6in/8ft 40-120g / 150-300g.....	£199.99 £169.99

## SHIMANO BOAT REELS

**TLD** 6 Models from £109.99

**TORIUM A HG** 6 Models from £159.99

**TYRROS** 6 Models from £179.99

**SpeedMaster LD II** 4 Models from £199.99

**TIAGRA A** 4 Models from £479.99

## SNOWBEE DEEP BLUE' BOAT RODS

Over the years, these rods have been steadily upgraded, but fans of the original Deep Blue range need not worry, as the latest Deep Blue' models have an even lighter, crisper action than their predecessors! Finished in the same lustrous deep blue, with subtle cross-rippings and details using lightweight graphite reel seats and chrome-plated stainless steel rings to prevent corrosion. Accurately rated to IGA line classes and at 7ft 7in they offer the ideal length for the serious boat angler and include a model to suit all fishing situations.

RRP	NOW
10201 7ft 7in IGA 8lb Class	£139.99 £125
10202 7ft 7in IGA 12lb Class	£139.99 £125
10203 7ft 7in IGA 15lb Class	£139.99 £125
10204 7ft 7in IGA 20lb Class	£149.99 £135
10205 7ft 7in IGA 25lb Class	£149.99 £135
10206 7ft 7in IGA 30lb Class	£149.99 £135

## DAIWA BOAT REELS

Fishing reels for sea fishing

**Sealine Sloss** Boat reel from £89.99

**18 Saltist** Boat reel from £239.99

**Saltist** Level wind reel from £239.99

**20 Saltiga LD** Single & 2 speed boat reels from £399

**16 Saltiga 40H 850H** Saltwater multiplier reels RRP £520 NOW £239

## SHIMANO BOAT RODS

**OCEA** SPINNING/PLUGGER FLEX RODS

RRP NOW  
7ft 6in - 30-50g Braid - 2 Pcs..... £134.99 £114.99  
7ft 11in - 20-30g Braid - 4 Pcs..... £134.99 £114.99  
7ft 11in - 20-30g - 4 Pcs..... £134.99 £114.99  
Ocea Plugger Flex Rod - 8ft 3in - 110g..... £294.99 £269.99  
Ocea Plugger Flex Rod - 8ft 3in - 130g..... £414.99 £389.99

**TECHNIUM** SLIM BOAT RODS

RRP NOW  
8ft - 40-100g - 2 Piece..... £339.99 £299.99  
8ft - 40-100g - 4 Piece..... £354.99 £309.99  
10ft - 40-100g - 4 Piece..... £374.99 £329.99

**BLUE ROMANCE** ULTRA POWER GAME ROD

## SHIMANO BOAT RODS

**Beast Master** BX SLIM BOAT RODS

Very strong and reliable boat rod, capable of fighting big fish.

RRP	NOW
7ft 6in - 12-20lb - 2 Piece.....	£104.99 £89.99
7ft 6in - 20-30lb - 2 Piece.....	£104.99 £89.99
7ft 6in - 30-50lb - 2 Piece.....	£104.99 £89.99

**Beast Master** CX BOAT RODS

Full Carbon + HPC + Biofibre for strength and power. Shimano Hardline Guides, DPS type reel seat, EVA grips for comfort and durability.

RRP	NOW
7ft 6in - 20-30lb - 2 Piece.....	£109.99 £99.99
7ft 6in - 30-50lb - 2 Piece.....	£109.99 £99.99

**Beast Master** PILK RODS

Designed for pilk / softbait fishing for cod, coalfish and small halibut.

RRP	NOW
7ft 10in - 40-95g.....	£84.99 £80.99
7ft 10in - 100-200g.....	£84.99 £80.99
7ft 10in - 150-300g.....	£84.99 £80.99
8ft 10in - 40-95g.....	£89.99 £84.99
8ft 10in - 70-140g.....	£89.99 £84.99

## SHIMANO STAND-UP BOAT RODS

**TYRROS** A STAND-UP RODS

RRP	NOW
1.65m - 30lb - 2 Piece.....	£224.99 £199.99
1.65m - 50lb - 2 Piece.....	£234.99 £209.99
1.65m - 80lb - 2 Piece.....	£249.99 £234.99

**TLD** A STAND-UP RODS

RRP	NOW
1.67m - 20lb - 1 Piece.....	£114.99 £99.99
1.67m - 30lb Roller 1 Piece.....	£189.99 £169.99
1.67m - 50lb Roller 1 Piece.....	£194.99 £174.99
1.67m - 80lb Roller 1 Piece.....	£194.99 £174.99

**VENGEANCE** STAND-UP RODS

RRP	NOW
5'5" - 80lb.....	£604.99 £579.99
5'5" - 30lb - 50lb.....	£604.99 £599

## SHIMANO TROLLING BOAT RODS

**TYRROS** TROLLING

- Full Carbon + HPC + Biofibre blanks
- SHIMANO Stainless Steel roller guides on SO & BI models
- Pac Bay aluminium butt reel seat
- EVA front grip & Aluminium rear grip

RRP	NOW
50lb, 80lb, 100lb & 130lb & 130lb B	5 Models from £244.99

**TYRROS** A TROLLING LITE

- ALPS heavy duty guides with SIC linings
- Full Carbon + HPC + Biofibre
- Pacific Bay aluminium heavy duty reel seat
- Ergonomic shaped EVA front grip

RRP	NOW
6lb, 12lb, 16lb & 20lb	4 Models from £139.99

**CATANA** CX TROLLING LITE

- Seaguide XRES guides
- Carbon blank with lightweight fast action
- Pac Bay aluminium reel seat
- EVA profiled grips with aluminium gimbal

RRP	NOW
6lb, 12lb, 16lb & 20lb	4 Models from £89.99

## SHIMANO BOAT REELS

**TEKOTA A** 7 Models from £154.99

**TALICA** 6 Models from £379.99

**OCEA JIGGER F CUSTOM** 4 Models from £419.99

**OCEA JIGGER** Silver - 2 Models from £399.99

## SHIMANO BOAT REELS

**TYRROS** 6 Models from £179.99

**TORIUM A HG** 6 Models from £159.99

**TRLD** Special 1000/2000 from £114.99

**TR** 200G £69.99

## SHIMANO LURES

**EXSENCE SHALLOW ASSASSIN FLASH BOOST LURES**

Aan innovative jerkbait that is equipped with a unique 'Flash Boost' feature, making this lure a one-of-a-kind for inshore spinning for sea bass and bladdfish. Flash Boost feature increases 'flash' from the lure even when stationary. Equipped with AR-C system for increased casting distance and accuracy Floating - diving depth 0.3m

T00 Mellowah	T03 Red Head	T04 Candy	T01 Bora
9.9cm - 14g - £16.99	9.9cm - 14g - £16.99	9.9cm - 14g - £16.99	9.9cm - 14g - £16.99
T05 Purple	T06 Black	T07 Green Gold	T02 Katakuchi
9.9cm - 14g - £16.99	9.9cm - 14g - £16.99	9.9cm - 14g - £16.99	9.9cm - 14g - £16.99



## UK BASS & DESTINATION FLY TACKLE

### VISION SALTWATER FLY RODS, REEL & LINE

#### MERISUOLA SALTWATER FLY RODS

Meris rods are especially targeted at coastal fishing. These rods have a powerful progressive action with a fast recovery speed which makes them a real joy to cast.

9ft #6 - £899.99  
9ft #7 - £899.99  
9ft #8 - £899.99  
9ft #9 - £899.99  
9ft #10 - £949.99  
9ft #12 - £949.99

#### XIV MUST SALTWATER FLY REEL

Ideal for lighter saltwater use as it takes good amount of this backing with a 77 weight Merisula flyline.

#7/8 - RRP £229.99 **£199.99**

#### MERIFISHING NET

Lightweight aluminum frame, short 24cm handle and 50cm deep rubber net.

RRP £34.99 **£29.99**

#### Also Recommended

RIO Coldwater Fly Line  
VISION Vibe 85 Fly Line

### Snowbee SALTWATER RODS & REELS

#### SPECTRE RMX SALTWATER 4PC

With the ever increasing popularity of Saltwater Bass, Bonefish, Carp & Pike fly fishing, the "Saltwater Predator" model is top of the Spectre range.

RRP £249 **£199**

#### PRESTIGE G-XS SW SALTWATER

The most powerful in the saltwater series, yet still deceptively light and easy to cast.

9ft #7 - 4 Piece  
RRP £549 **£499**

Also available in #8 & #10

#### XS FLY REELS

The first choice for the best of saltwater Bonefish, Jacks, Permit and smaller Tarpon, or Bass & Pollock.

#7/9 #9/11 - from **£239** #9/10 #10/11 - from **£145**

#### SPECTRE FLY REELS

Ultra-lightweight, precision CNC machined aluminum reels for a better rod/reel balance.

#7/9 #9/11 - from **£239** #9/10 #10/11 - from **£145**

### 5 GREAT BASS FISHING OUTFITS

#### Snowbee Classic Kit 10ft

The perfect rod for bass and sea-trout applications.

#7 - £145

#### Snowbee Classic Saltwater Kit 10ft

Designed exclusively with the more powerful saltwater and predatory fish in mind.

#8 - £145

#### VISION Fisur 2 Outfit 9ft

Ready to fish kits with a slick & supple standard weight forward fly line, backing & leader pre-spooled.

#5 #6 #7 - RRP £219.99 **£199.99**

#### VISION Fisur 2 Outfit 9ft 6in

Ready to fish kits with a slick & supple standard weight forward fly line, backing & leader pre-spooled.

#7 - RRP £219.99 **£199.99**

#### GUIDELINE Laxa Saltwater Fly Fishing Outfit

Crip medium-fast action rod.

#7 - RRP £274.99 **£199**

See website for full details and specifications

### WATERWORKS SALTWATER LAMSON FLY REELS

#### UK BASS LIQUID

A pressure cast reel boasting full radius compound curves, near zero-radius inside corners and 100% U.S. drag components.

5- £99  
7- £109

#### GURU S-SERIES

Setting a standard for enlightened excellence as a rugged, fully USA-machined, and ultra-reliable reel at a great price.

7- £289  
9- £299

#### GURU S-SERIES HD

Steadfast and stylish, Guru has long set a standard as a rugged, fully USA-machined, and ultra-reliable reel.

7- £329  
9- £349

#### BLUESPEED MARINE

With hybrid drag system.

#8 #10 #12 - £549

#### COBALT

Cobalt is a big game powerhouse of a reel.

#6 #8 #10 #12 - £599

#### COBALT HD

The HD version is a heavy-duty, full frame reel.

#8 #10 #12 - £699

### Snowbee GEO-S SPECIAL OFFER

These are a range of reels, with which the world's fly fishers could take on the best that the largest rivers and widest oceans could throw at them... and win!

Geo-S Fly Reel #810  
Salmon & Saltwater Reel - RRP £375 **NOW £169**  
Spare Spool - £149

Geo-S Fly Reel #1012  
Salmon & Saltwater Reel - RRP £395 **NOW £189**  
Spare Spool - £159

SAVE OVER **£200**

### SIMMS TRIBUTARY STOCKINGFOOT WADERS

Waders with a durable, breathable 3- and 4-layer build for all-day dry, comfortable performance at a great value.

Men's £199  
Women's £199  
Kids £139

SAVE **£99**

Add a pair of FREESTONE WADING BOOTS with these waders for only **£80** (RRP £179)

BUY THE 3 TOGETHER FOR **£429** (RRP £599)

Simms G4Z Fishing Waders Stockingfoot Slate £899

Simms G4 PRO Fishing Waders Stockingfoot Slate £799

Simms Freestone Z Fishing Waders Stockingfoot Darkgunmetal £419

Simms Freestone Fishing Waders Stockingfoot Darkgunmetal £349

Freestone Fish £179  
Freestone £179

### FLADEN RESCUE SYSTEM ONE PIECE FLOTATION SUIT

An affordable flotation suit that does not compromise on safety. With the same extreme buoyancy and thermal protection that you expect from all Fladen Rescue System Suits. An Updated model of Fladen's popular 845 suit, the 845KY features the same functions and quality that you're used to, but with a modern touch.

RRP £179.99 **£149.99**

Simms G4Z Fishing Waders Stockingfoot Slate £899

Simms G4 PRO Fishing Waders Stockingfoot Slate £799

Simms Freestone Z Fishing Waders Stockingfoot Darkgunmetal £419

Simms Freestone Fishing Waders Stockingfoot Darkgunmetal £349

Freestone Fish £179  
Freestone £179

### VISION SALTWATER RODS, REELS & LURES

#### Merisula Graphene Saltwater Fly Rod

Tested all over the world by sailfish, tarpon, permit, jacks, bonefish, pike, sea trout etc.

9ft #6 - £899.99  
9ft #7 - £899.99  
9ft #8 - £899.99  
9ft #9 - £899.99  
9ft #10 - £949.99  
9ft #12 - £949.99

#### Merisula Saltwater Reels

These bigger reels are aimed at heavy salmon and saltwater use.

#7/8 #8/9 #9/10 #10/12  
RRP £399.99 to £499.99

#### Merisula Fly Line

Designed for harsh saltwater environments and big, strong, fast fish.

WF6, WF7, WF8, WF9, WF10, WF12  
RRP £89.99 **£79.99**

### Scott SALTWATER FLY RODS

Scott Fly Rod Company introduces the all new Sector series of high performance, hand crafted saltwater fly rods.

Sector rods advance on Scott's award-winning Meridian series to bring you a new level of performance and reliability in saltwater fly rods.

8ft 4in #10 #13 #15 3 Piece  
8ft 4in #8 #8 4 Piece  
8ft 10in #7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12 2 Piece  
9ft #6 #7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12 4 Piece

**£929**

The Sector New Zealand Special has been developed specifically for checking everything required to catch trout in gin-clear water and cramped conditions - whether it be nymph rigs, big dry flies - or even streamers. A timeless allrounder!

9ft #6 4 Piece **£929**

### G-IOMIS SALTWATER FLY

#### ASQUITH

Built on Shimano's proprietary Spiral X platform, the Asquith boasts superb power transfer from tip to hand, quick recovery, and increased sensitivity.

ASQ 890 9ft #7 #8 4 Piece £899.99  
ASQ 1090 9ft #9 #10 4 Piece £899.99  
ASQ 1290 9ft #11 #12 4 Piece £999.99

#### NRX+

Empowers anglers with confidence-boosting control in less-than-ideal situations.

NRX+ 5790 / 890 / 990 9ft #7 #8 #9 4 Piece £799.99  
NRX+ 51090 9ft #10 4 Piece £799.99  
NRX+ 51290 9ft #12 4 Piece £799.99  
NRX+ 10810-2 8ft 10" #10 2 Piece £799.99  
NRX+ 12810-2 8ft 10" #12 2 Piece £799.99

### REDINGTON GRANDE FLY REELS

Welcome the new heavyweight champion...

The Redington GRANDE reel is a fully anodized, machined aluminum reel that features a new sealed SUPER-TORQUE carbon drag system that will KO any fish you hook. After years of field testing, Redington built up the GRANDE with an oversized palming rim, increased backing capacity, and designed an easy to locate handle and drag knob so you can make quick adjustments in the heat of the battle.

GRANDE BLACK from **£299.99**  
GRANDE MARINE from **£299.99**  
GRANDE CHAMPAGNE from **£299.99**

### 3 GREAT SALTWATER FLY LINES FOR 2022

#### Amplitude Smooth Infinity Saltwater

IFTD Best Of Show Winner 2020 - Saltwater Fly Line. The go-to line for all saltwater species. Made half size heavy turns over large flies on windy days.

**£119.99**

#### Mastery Saltwater

From dry-fly purists to tarpon-chasing pool hounds, the Mastery Series from SA provides every angle the lines they need to catch the fish they crave.

**£79.99**

#### Frequency Saltwater

The Frequency Saltwater is a great all-around compound saltwater taper designed to load rods quickly and cut through the wind.

**£59.99**

### RIO PRODUCTS DESTINATION FLY LINES

Ultra powerful, easy casting lines built for exceptionally long casts with ultra-slick performance.

Premier Tarpon Quicksheeter Camo / Ivory RRP £99.99 **£89.99**

Premier Bonefish Quicksheeter Floating Aqua Blue / Sand RRP £99.99 **£89.99**

Elite Tropical Outbound Short Floating Dark Sand / Blue RRP £129.99 **£119.99**

Elite Tropical Outbound Short Floating Clear / Dark Sand / Blue RRP £129.99 **£119.99**

Elite Tropical Outbound Short Floating Clear / Grey / Trans Blue RRP £129.99 **£119.99**

Tropical Outbound Short Intermediate/Slip/Tips Black / Trans Blue RRP £129.99 **£119.99**

SEE FULL DETAILS AND SPECIFICATIONS ON OUR WEBSITE

### PROLOGIC INSPIRE CHEST BOOTFOOT BREATHABLE WADER

Designed to be an easy step-in wader that can be put on in seconds, the wide EVA boot is also easy to roll down to.

Wide EVA boot for quick step-in  
New suspender system, which can easily be adjusted with one hand  
Fold away rain cover  
Water-repellent front pocket

**£99.99**

### FLADEN ONE PIECE FLOTATION SUIT

The lightest suit on the market. Has the same extreme buoyancy and thermal protection as the other Fladen Rescue Systems.

RRP £179.99 **£149.99**

### FLADEN TWO PIECE FLOTATION SUIT

The Bib and Brace trousers becomes a certified Flotation suit only when worn with the Flotation Jacket.

RRP £179.99 **£149.99**

Flotation Jacket £137.99/£114.99  
Flotation Trousers £94.99 **£69.99**  
Flotation Trousers NEW (2020) £119.99/£99.99





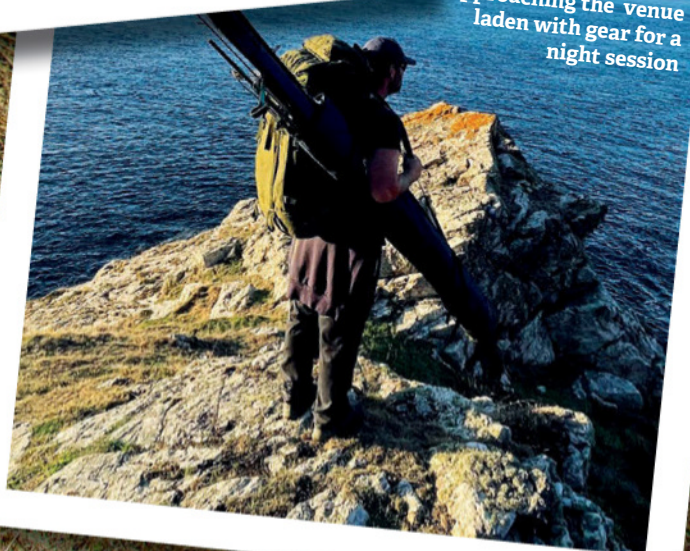
# OBSESSIVE CONGER DISORDER

Chris Kennedy is unable to resist a cast himself while guiding some pals to fish the reefs of Sark's Guillot Passage in search of bream and huss

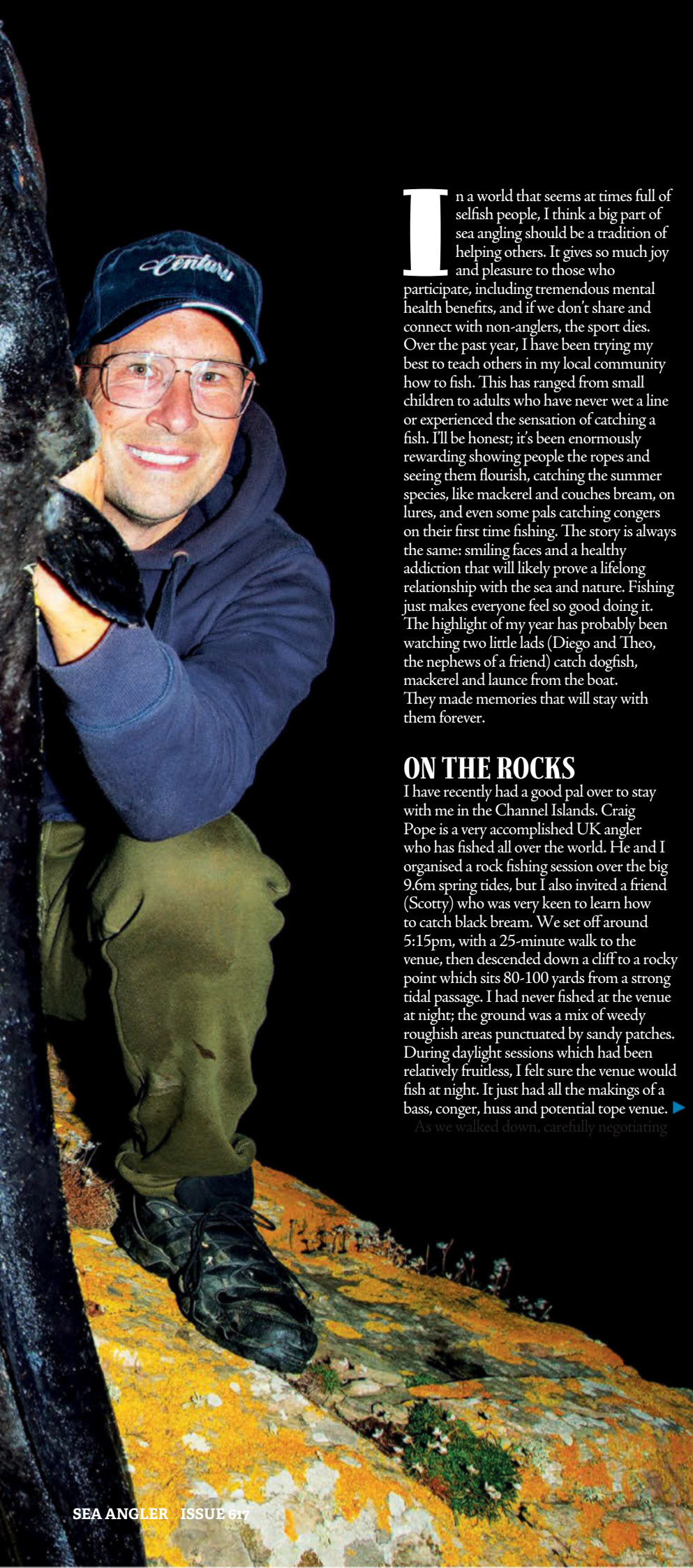
A beautiful, small  
Couch's bream



Approaching the venue  
laden with gear for a  
night session







**I**n a world that seems at times full of selfish people, I think a big part of sea angling should be a tradition of helping others. It gives so much joy and pleasure to those who participate, including tremendous mental health benefits, and if we don't share and connect with non-anglers, the sport dies. Over the past year, I have been trying my best to teach others in my local community how to fish. This has ranged from small children to adults who have never wet a line or experienced the sensation of catching a fish. I'll be honest; it's been enormously rewarding showing people the ropes and seeing them flourish, catching the summer species, like mackerel and couches bream, on lures, and even some pals catching congers on their first time fishing. The story is always the same: smiling faces and a healthy addiction that will likely prove a lifelong relationship with the sea and nature. Fishing just makes everyone feel so good doing it. The highlight of my year has probably been watching two little lads (Diego and Theo, the nephews of a friend) catch dogfish, mackerel and launce from the boat. They made memories that will stay with them forever.

## ON THE ROCKS

I have recently had a good pal over to stay with me in the Channel Islands. Craig Pope is a very accomplished UK angler who has fished all over the world. He and I organised a rock fishing session over the big 9.6m spring tides, but I also invited a friend (Scotty) who was very keen to learn how to catch black bream. We set off around 5:15pm, with a 25-minute walk to the venue, then descended down a cliff to a rocky point which sits 80-100 yards from a strong tidal passage. I had never fished at the venue at night; the ground was a mix of weedy roughish areas punctuated by sandy patches. During daylight sessions which had been relatively fruitless, I felt sure the venue would fish at night. It just had all the makings of a bass, conger, huss and potential tope venue. ▶

*As we walked down, carefully negotiating*

### HATS

FLLEE LINED BEANIES  
BRUSHED COTTON CAPS  
SNAPBACK CAPS

Hats available at [vassmerchandise.com](http://vassmerchandise.com)

### BAGS

100% WATERPROOF RUCK SACK  
VASS 100% WATERPROOF RUCK SACK  
LIFE LINE LUGGAGE  
STURDY TRUCK BAG  
FISHING TACKLE BAG

### BOOTS

VASS NEOPRENE BOOT & WADER LINER  
VASS R-BOOTS 100% WATERPROOF

### WADERS

RANGE OF WADERS FROM £74.98 to £360.00

### HOODIES

NEW VASS FISHING CULTURE HOODIES  
Zippered Chest Pocket  
VASS FISHING CULTURE HOODIES

### WINTER COVERED

HEAVY DUTY WINTER 350 RANGE 100% WATERPROOF  
WINTER LINED 175 RANGE 100% WATERPROOF

For full range visit:  
[WWW.VASS-UK.COM](http://WWW.VASS-UK.COM)  
VASS PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT FROM LEADING OUTLET RETAILERS



the sheer drops and crumbly rock, I was filled with anticipation and excitement. I could see whirling currents, back eddies and even a tidal rip flooding out of an undersea cave to my left. Any red-blooded angler seeing this would have thought, 'this looks really fishy'. I could see the expressions on Craig and Scotty's faces. They were in awe of the beauty of the place as the sky changed colours from deep blues to fiery yellows, burning oranges and pinks. Scotty suddenly called out 'tuna', as we all saw a couple of these pelagic beasts fly through the air only 150 yards out. The vision was enough to captivate any angler and fill the soul with enthusiasm. These majestic creatures have been giving us a show since late August. I only hope that commercial activities don't make them a rarity again.



A beautiful mackerel

I took a few still images with the big camera, as Craig rigged up and then helped Scotty sort out the bream gear, setting up a Century C2-D spod rod, which is ideal for playing this hard-fighting, spikey-backed predator. A very responsive rod with a parabolic action certainly makes it harder for the bream to shake hooks. I rigged a simple two-hook flapper with floating beads. The bait appearing to be floating in tide is very attractive to this species that often sight-feeds with their big eyes in daylight. I started with fresh squid tentacle, a bait that is not only tough but irresistible to black bream. Within seconds of the first bait hitting the water about 50 yards out, Scotty was calling out that he had a bite, and then he was in. Craig and I peered on while offering words of encouragement as Scotty rather hurriedly played the fish in on the light rod. As the fish surfaced, he had a plump mackerel on the top hook and a black bream on the bottom.

I'll be honest; it had been a while since I saw a mackerel on a squid strip and size two hook; we have been so used to catching them on metal jigs and Sabiki feathers. Scotty was made up, off the mark before us and itching to get another bait out. The chemical release when we catch a fish for the first time is nothing short of euphoric in the brain. I rebaited his hooks, and another cast was sent out straight into another bream. ►



Good enough to eat – squid/launce bait



Scotty with a double shot of bream



# FENIX

LIGHTING FOR EXTREMES

THEY COME ALIVE AT NIGHT.



## HM65R

Our best selling headlamp to date, the HM65R time after time proves to be a reliable partner in the sea angling world. The 1000 lumen spotlight provides a far reaching light to look out where you're casting, whilst the 8-400 lumen flood light gives you close illumination for baiting up and traversing rocky marks.

50-1000 Lumen white spotlight  
8-400 Lumen white floodlight  
1 x 3400mAh 18650 rechargeable battery  
IP68 waterproofing

**£107.95** RRP

## HM65R SHADOWMASTER

Our UK exclusive specialist HM65R ShadowMaster builds on the reliability of the HM65R but gives you a more covert approach. The spotlight has been upgraded to give 1200 lumens and the flood light has been replaced with a Red LED to protect night vision. ShadowMaster has also been fitted with constant current circuitry to maintain brightness throughout your session.

50-1200 Lumen white spotlight  
5- 150 Lumen powerful red floodlight  
1 x 3400mAh 18650 rechargeable battery  
IP68 waterproofing

**£109.95** RRP

## HM70R + E-LITE Seasonal Gift set

The robust Fenix HM70R is paired up with a handy E-Lite in the latest seasonal giftset from Fenix. This combo gives you a powerful headtorch to light up your winter sea fishing in the toughest conditions, whilst the E-lite is a useful beacon and emergency light.

**HM70R**  
1600lm white spotlight | 400lm white floodlight | 5lm red light  
1 x 5000mAh 21700 rechargeable battery | IP68 waterproofing

**E-Lite**  
5-150 Lumen white light | 3 Lumen red/blue beacon  
275mAh inbuilt rechargeable battery | IP66 waterproofing

**£119.95** RRP





Scotty missed a good few bites but began catching fish after fish; he was totally addicted, hooked on fishing.

Craig was also pulling in bream, one after another and as the light fell also found a beautiful pouting, which is less common here. Scotty was losing a few rigs as time went by. I was very busy rerigging his rod for a period, but this is normal when you are new to fishing rougher ground. I cast my mind back to those summer days when my father spent all day on the rocks, sacrificing his fishing opportunities to give my brother and I the opportunity of catching wrasse, pollock, mackerel, bass and garfish. This took place every summer on the island opposite (Herm Island), which I could see the dark silhouette of in the distance from where we stood on our high rocky perch. Patience is a virtue, and there is more pleasure to be attained in helping others than in helping yourself.

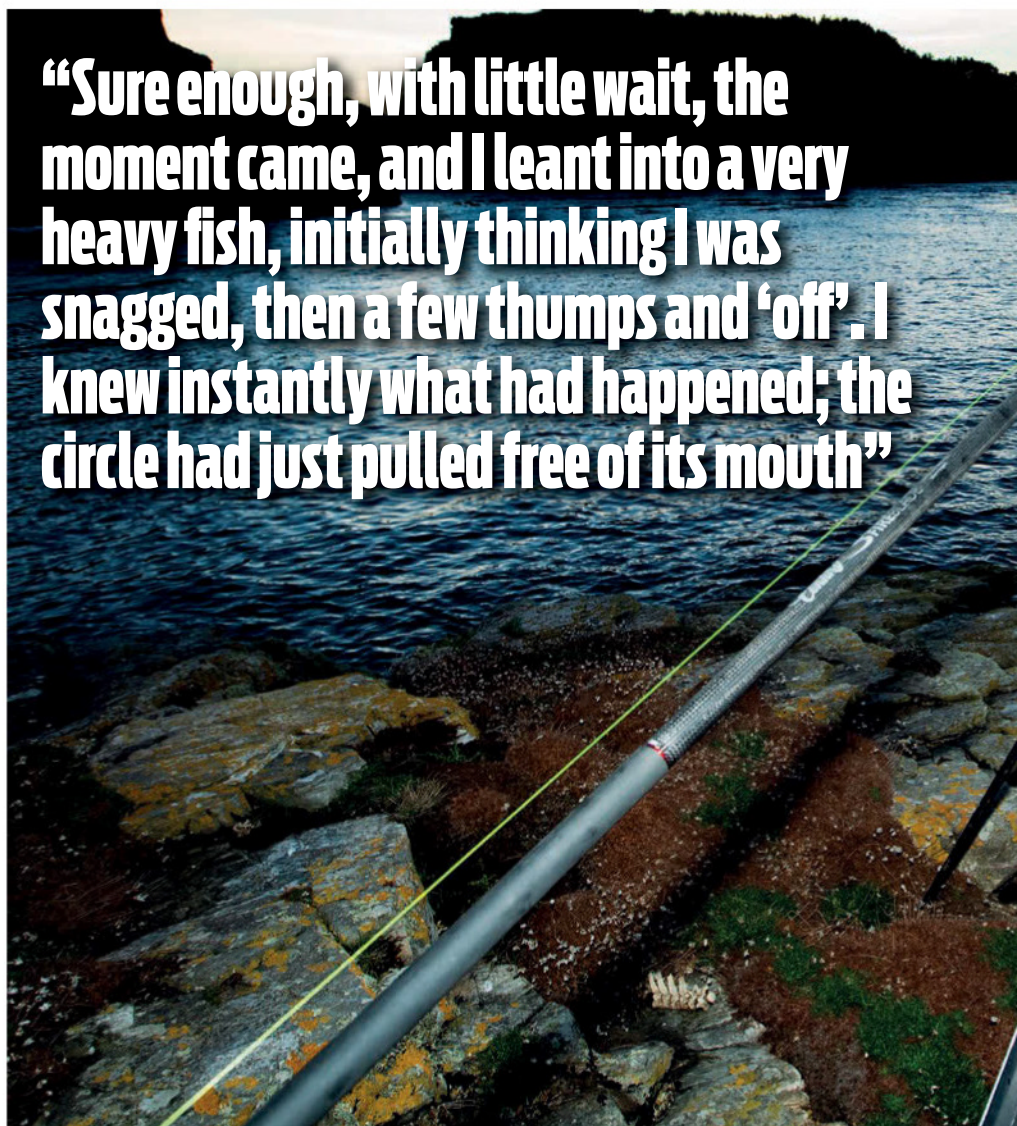
After good solid bites, Craig lost three huss spinning on the surface in tricky landing situations on the J hooks. He then landed a 6-7lb fish which was released promptly down to our left in front of a deep rocky cavern. Having not wet a line yet myself (we'd been out five hours or more, well into darkness) I said to Craig that I was commandeering one of the rods on his tripod and having a cast myself, to which he smiled and didn't object. To be fair, I have no concept of time while fishing and hadn't noticed the hours passing. However, having seen Craig getting some action, I fancied chuck. The sea just looked so captivating in the moonlight.

## PECKED TO THE SPINE

I don't think I have obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) but I certainly possess certain traits; everything has to be just right or in a certain order. When it comes to baits I take great pride in presenting them. I use way too much elastic, and I have to be satisfied that they look tidy, relatively aerodynamic and that the hooks stand very proud. I quickly prepared three traces and had a cast, firstly to the left near the main tidal flow of the Guillot Passage, where Craig had joy with the huss. My mackerel head and guts were stripped and pecked to the spine in minutes. The bream were just hammering the mackerel so I decided to switch to a scad/squid head mix which proved more bream-resistant. It was clear from my elevated position when it was bream rattling and when it was something different having a go. Craig had his first dog of the night, which is never a good sign. Scotty was still plucking bream out and managed a lovely little Couch's bream, much to the dismay of Craig, who needed one for his specimen competition back home but had tried hard for one on Sark.

I made what I thought was a bait good enough to eat; a rolled big squid bait with two prime snake launce lashed to the side on an 8/0 circle hook sitting proud. I felt supremely confident that as low water approached something decent would show. I sat gazing at the moonlit sea, the silhouetted headland and the millionaire island of Brecqhou on the other side of the passage, something with all the mystique and intrigue of a Bond villain's lair, Dr No-esque. As I stood there

**"Sure enough, with little wait, the moment came, and I leant into a very heavy fish, initially thinking I was snagged, then a few thumps and 'off'. I knew instantly what had happened; the circle had just pulled free of its mouth"**



A rare Sark pouting



in a trance, oblivious to whatever Scotty and Craig were up to, the sound of my drag clicking and tip lurching forward snapped me out of my imagination, and it was action stations. This wasn't a bream bite; it had all the hallmarks of a heavy eel.

My immediate concern was that I was on an 8/0 circle hook, which in my experience has poor performance with hooking eels. I'd have much rather been on a catfish hook or a strong pattern of J hook. I had cast out pretty far, and I thought huss – which loves a circle – or tope was a more likely candidate. I waited patiently, rod in hand, waiting for a good tug, and I would wind into it trying to set the hook. Sure enough, with little wait, the moment came, and I leant into a very heavy fish, initially thinking I was snagged, then a few thumps and 'off'. I knew instantly what had happened; the circle had just pulled free of its mouth, no hook-up. It had opened its jaws and let it free. Some might argue I was just unlucky, but I am adamant that a catfish hook would have found the connection I needed. Gutted, the only thing to do was to leave the bait where it was, hoping the potential conger would come for another bite. After all, I only moved the bait a yard or two. I put the T1000 back in the tripod,





Craig waits for a bite while the last of the sunset fades

loosened the drag to almost zero resistance and stood there, immune to any other distraction or commentary from Craig or Scotty.

## TOUCH AND GO

After a minute or two, there was interference on the line, followed by a little run. I carefully grabbed the rod and prepared to wind into the very next bite. Drag was locked down, and I could feel the 58lb J-braid start to tighten and pressure increase, at which point I wound hard and raised the tip of the Eliminator T1000, feeling a very heavy connection. A big eel thumped, and pulled me and the rod forward slightly. I knew I had to go as hard as possible as it would surely find safety in a reef, and I would lose my gear. My fears were realised moments later, a short time into a very physical scrap, that the eel had gone to ground. However, one of the benefits of using a rod designed for rough ground and larger fish is that you can exert a lot of pressure and sometimes bounce the fish out of a reef. That's exactly what I did. Craig was watching intently and called out, 'it's moving'.

It sure was, but fighting for its life, with me feeling every nod and thump through the rod. Craig disappeared off to my left, having to climb down the cliff to make landing possible, as now approaching low tide, a huge reef had appeared below us. The race was on. Could Craig get down there before the line angle closed and touched the reef? My heart was in my mouth. I asked Scotty if Craig was nearly there, and he said yes. Just as my 80lb leader reached the reef edge and started to rub, I had to give, to stop the line grinding and risk the eel going again to ground or cutting me off. Craig grabbed the leader trace just in the nick of time. Within 10 seconds or so, he had the sizeable eel up on the reef at his feet. 'Yes!' I screamed in celebration, into the darkness.

The eel looked decent; however, I was probably 25-30ft above Craig. He suggested it was 30lb; perhaps it was a PB? I have been stuck on 36lb 9oz since 2017. I was excited. The eel seemed to have a large head and upper, tapering down quickly to a thin tail. I threw my rucksack and a

Royal Mail sack down to him so that he could carry the eel up to us for a photo and weighing. Still in the Royal Mail sack, the fish weighed around 28lb 2oz.

I was pretty shocked, considering how hard it had scrapped. When I got it out of the bag, it was less than happy, making multiple attempts to bite me. The photo situation wasn't easy, but we took four of five shots and then carried the eel to the water's edge to release it back into the dark abyss. Scotty, being completely new to angling, said, 'that was mental'.

I smiled and cut the 2-3ft of leader off my line that had been damaged from abrasion before blasting another cast out. It had been a really exciting sequence of events, and though not a PB, it had certainly been my best conger eel this year. It gets you quite down in the dumps when you target conger eels and get many fish between 3lb and 10lb; you wonder where the big fish are? It's funny when you are just on a casual one with friends, have a few casts and you find what you are after. I guess fishing is like that. Despite the lads feeling tired, I didn't want to go home, convinced there was something better out there. I enthusiastically prepared two more delicious baits.

I had a further run, followed by a likely bass slackliner, as did Craig, with his looking very promising, but the fish dropped the bait. I was sort of relieved that it wasn't my turn to climb down the cliff, as it looked a bit perilous. Soon his bites had reverted back to typical bream activity, and tired after three days of solid fishing for all sorts of species, we called it a night and began the long ascent up the cliff. Calf muscles burning and out of breath, we reflected on the night's fishing. Scotty had conger, Couch's, black bream, dogfish and mackerel, Craig had landed huss, dogs, bream, mackerel and pouting and I'd just had a nice eel and a scintillating battle. The venue had been as picturesque as anywhere on earth. We'd all had a tremendous session, but the place left you wanting more; it promised greater things. All that deep water and tidal movement captivated our imaginations, and we'll be back. ■



29lb 2oz and Chris' best conger of the year



# SEA ANGLING SNAPS



In association with  
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We've been running an online competition in association with Harrison Cameras to find your best fishing photos. Here are a selection of your entries. The winner will be announced on the Sea Angler Facebook page

Arron Dyer

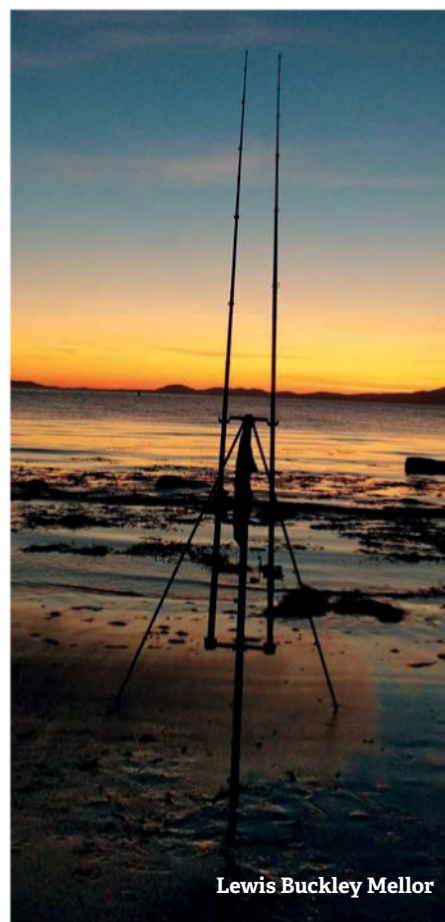


Adam Nicholls



Karl Bird

Lewis Buckley Mellor





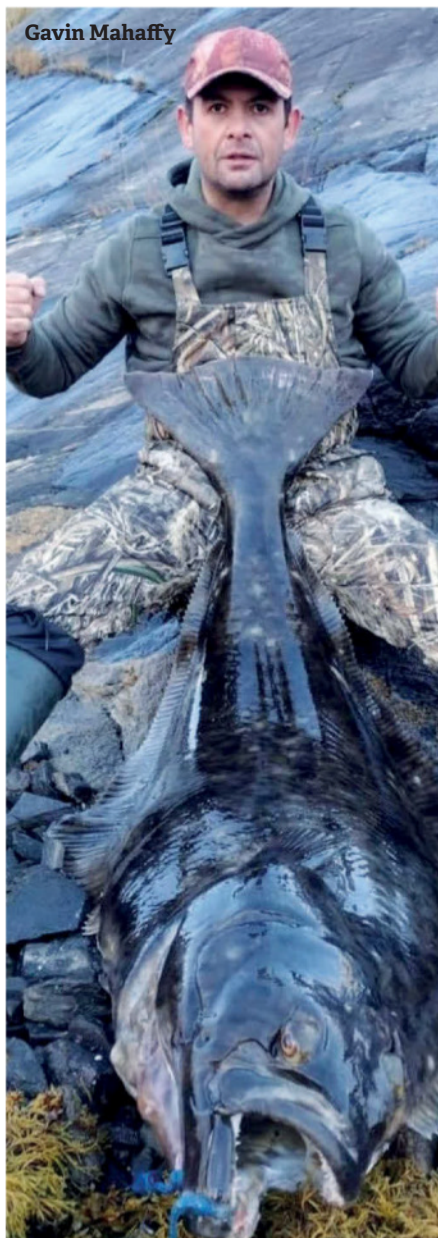
Stephen Charles



Craig Thompson



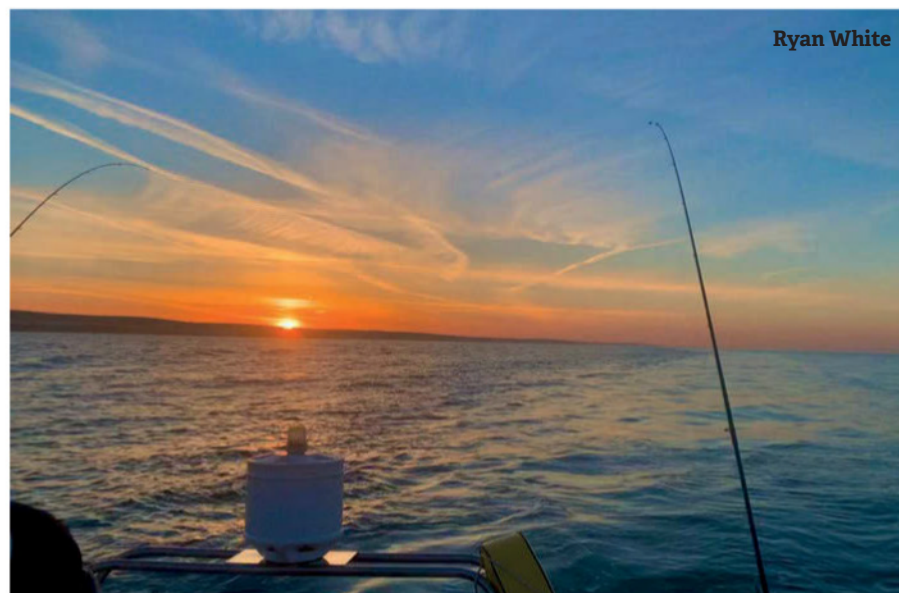
Gavin Mahaffy



Dave Cave and son Finn



Ryan White





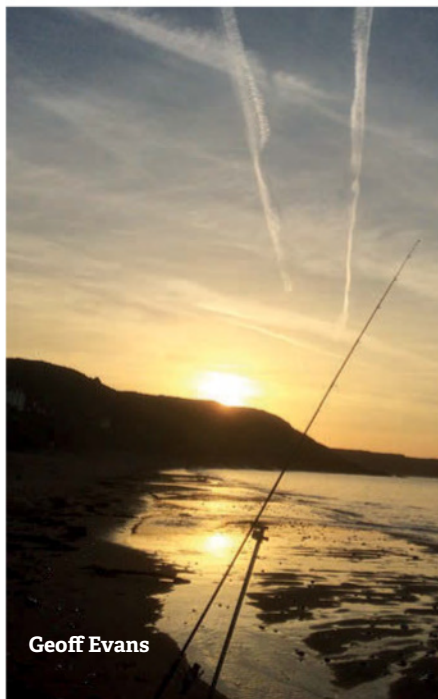
Phil Lewis



Darren Stodart



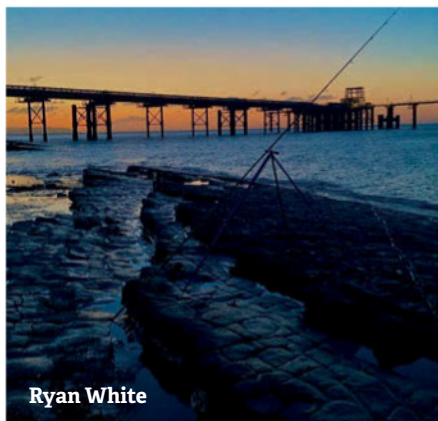
Geoff Evans



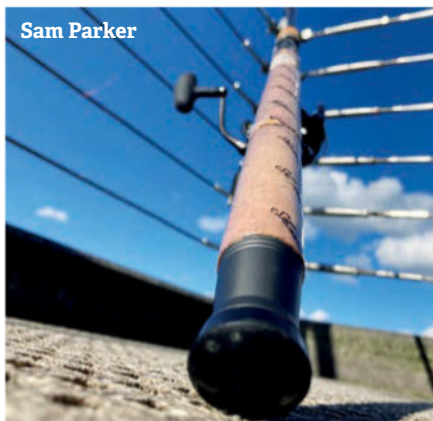
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# MULTI-SPECIES MUMBLES

With at least 52 recorded species caught Mumbles Pier, on the western end of Swansea Bay, is as rich as it comes and a species hunter's dream



**T**he pier, which is 255m long, is at the western corner of Swansea Bay, which sweeps 17 miles eastwards to Morfa beach. It sits to the north of the rocky outcrop of Mumbles Head, where the swirling tide induces a strong race at the head of the pier.

Originally built in 1898, Mumbles Pier had long been a favourite with anglers, being a noted venue for a wide variety of species; however, like so many of these coastal relics of the Victorian era, the years have not been kind.

Gradually it had slipped into such a sorry state of disrepair that it became dangerous and in 2011 the access gate was locked and the pier sat silent while awaiting renovation work, including an upgrade to the RNLI boathouse. Many anglers, myself included, doubted that angling would be allowed if the pier was ever reopened to public access.

The pier remained closed for several years before finally reopening in 2014. The new lifeboat house is now situated at the end of the pier, which traditionally used to be a favourite spot for anglers. Gone, too, is access to the lower levels from where it used to be possible to fish among the pier stanchions.





## THE PUSH OF THE EBB

I got an opportunity to fish the pier when I was invited to tag along on a morning session with Luke Clement and Paul Rosser. Joining us would be local match angler Steve Tucker, and my friend Terry Thomas.

Our arrival at the pier coincided with the first push of the ebb on a huge equinoctial spring tide. The ebb is prime time to fish at many areas, notably Swansea Bay, and keen to catch something as soon as possible a few of the lads cast mackerel baits away from the pier. Soon enough nodding rod tips confirmed that just as we had expected, the inevitable hordes of dogfish were feeding.

A wide variety of species can be caught throughout the year, but late summer to early autumn is certainly one of the best times for variety. Plenty of bass and mullet had been reported from the pier, along with other more unusual species including black bream, triggerfish and red mullet.

With the push of such a big tide getting stronger by the minute and just about every cast away from the pier resulting in dogfish, the anglers adjusted their techniques and concentrated on fishing directly beneath the pier. Bass are invariably caught close to the tangle of barnacle-encrusted ironwork. Big baits, notably livebaits, are often the key to catching big bass, but on this day we caught only small schoolies.

Many local anglers fish lures, such as small artificial eels for bass, pollack and mackerel. Keen to try his hand, Luke rigged up with a small white eel. Not long afterwards he caught the first pollack. Not surprisingly, smaller baits, especially ragworm and crab, fished close in ►



Smelt – smell of cucumber, apparently!



The piles and ironwork provide a haven for many species



Red mullet



Scorpion fish





## READER VERDICT

Having fished the pier for 50 years, Dr Roger Munro reveals in its fishing potential...

During the last five decades, I have caught 28 species of fish from this pier and have witnessed the catch of a further 24 species. The south side is better for flatfish, large bass, pollack, mackerel and garfish, whereas the north side is more productive for smoothhounds, congers, bull huss and most other species.

It fishes well all year, but May to late October is the most productive period. There is an average tidal range of 33 feet across this section of the Bristol Channel, with an occasional range of 41 feet during the high spring tides. When the tide has fully ebbed on the highest springs, there is at least six to eight feet of water at the head of the pier.

An extensive bed of mussels covers the seabed between the pier supports to the midwater mark and the area is alive with sandeels, hermit crabs, prawns, algae and young fish. Triggerfish of 2-4lb have been resident under the pier in summer for many years.

There's no better introduction to sea angling than fishing for summer species from a productive pier, so it was to Mumbles that I took my grandson, Noam, for his first fishing session. I made sure we were the first to arrive so that I could access my favourite spot on the north platform, which allowed us to cast in two directions – eastwards parallel to the RNLI slipway and to the north-facing side.

My chosen combination was an 11ft Daiwa Sandstorm Bass rod fitted with an Abu 6500CS Rocket Chrome multiplier loaded with 20lb mainline. I set up Noam with a 9ft Abu Vendetta spinning rod and Abu Cardinal S40 fixed-spool reel. It was an hour before low water when my first cast of 80 yards with a juicy peeler on a size 3/0 hook Pennell pulley rig complete with a 4oz breakout sinker hit the water.

I helped Noam get his mackerel and squid cocktail bait out close to the slipway using a two-hook flapper rig armed with size 2/0 hooks. No sooner had Noam's bait hit the water than there was a prolonged ratchet run on my rod, the butt lifted alarmingly off the platform floor and I managed to hook a 7lb smoothhound.

Soon after I was helping Noam land a 2lb 4oz dogfish, which had taken the top hook, and a 4lb 5oz conger on the lower hook. I caught two more hounds to 8lb (peeler crab), a 4lb 10z bull huss (squid and mackerel cocktail), a ballan wrasse of 2lb 9oz (king rag) and a 14oz garfish while feathering for mackerel.



quickly added variety to our catch. Rock gobies, small wrasse, tub gurnards and smelts were caught; like most piers, Mumbles is a terrific venue for the LRF angler.

We failed to catch several of the more desirable species, but such is the scope of this excellent venue everyone caught a number of species of fish. As low water approached the heavy rain which had been forecast arrived and I was the first to throw in the towel and retreat to the cafe at the end of the pier. The temptation of a mug of hot tea and a plate of fish and chips was simply too much to resist.

## SPECIES DIVERSE

Another angler had joined us on the platform. He waited until two hours after low water before he cast a single size 2/0 hook loaded with a ragworm on a long flowing snood to the inside of the pier between four large stilts.

Over the next three hours he caught four trigger fish, three red mullet, three grey mullet, a ballan wrasse and a black bream. He stopped fishing an hour before top water and left. I moved in to emulate his performance but caught nothing. It was in one of the pier wells that a rarely caught 2lb 10oz John Dory was hooked some years ago using live pouting as bait. About an hour before I planned to leave, a young angler asked me for help because his line

Roger with a plaice from the pier



A smoothhound from the North platform







Fishing platform on the south side of the pier

was snagged under the pier. We managed to free his line from the depths of the pier, but it wasn't snagged and floating on the surface was what appeared to be a double-figure conger. With no available drop-net, he had to cut his line. As we were leaving, he caught what appeared to be the same conger.

Before heading for home, I checked the south platform and my regular fishing partner Ian Evans and his son, Ioan, were fishing at the extreme seaward end. Ian had caught three bass to 4lb 7oz and five pollack to 3lb 1oz while lure fishing with Fiiish Black Minnows and also with live sandeels close to the RNLI slipway.

Ioan was delighted with a long-spined scorpion fish, a red gurnard of 9oz, a corkwing wrasse and a smelt using a rag-baited, two-up, one-down flapper rig suspended straight down from the pier platform.

As Noam and I ate our fish and chips in the pier restaurant, I reflected that Mumbles Pier had yet again produced a remarkably rich and memorable array of species. ■

## NEED TO KNOW

Fishing platforms are provided on both the north and south sides of the pier head. The number of fishing stations on each platform is 10. Although there is not much room for casting, the need for distance is unnecessary. Places are allocated on a first come basis at a cost of £5 per person with fishing from 9am to dusk.



There is a pay and display car park a short walk from the pier, making this a great choice of venue for elderly, disabled or children to fish.

### GETTING THERE

Exit the M4 at junction 42 and follow signs to Swansea along the A483 until you cross the River Tawe on the outskirts of the city. Follow the coast road (A4067) until you reach Mumbles. Bear left on the roundabout at the White Rose pub and follow the coast road until you reach the pier at Mumbles Head.

### TACKLE SHOP

Mainwarings Angling Centre,  
44 Vivian Rd, Sketty, Swansea,  
SA2 0UH, tel: 01792 202245

### MUMBLES PIER

It's advisable to check that the pier is open for fishing before you visit.  
Tel: 01792 365200  
Email: [enquiries@mumbles-pier.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@mumbles-pier.co.uk)





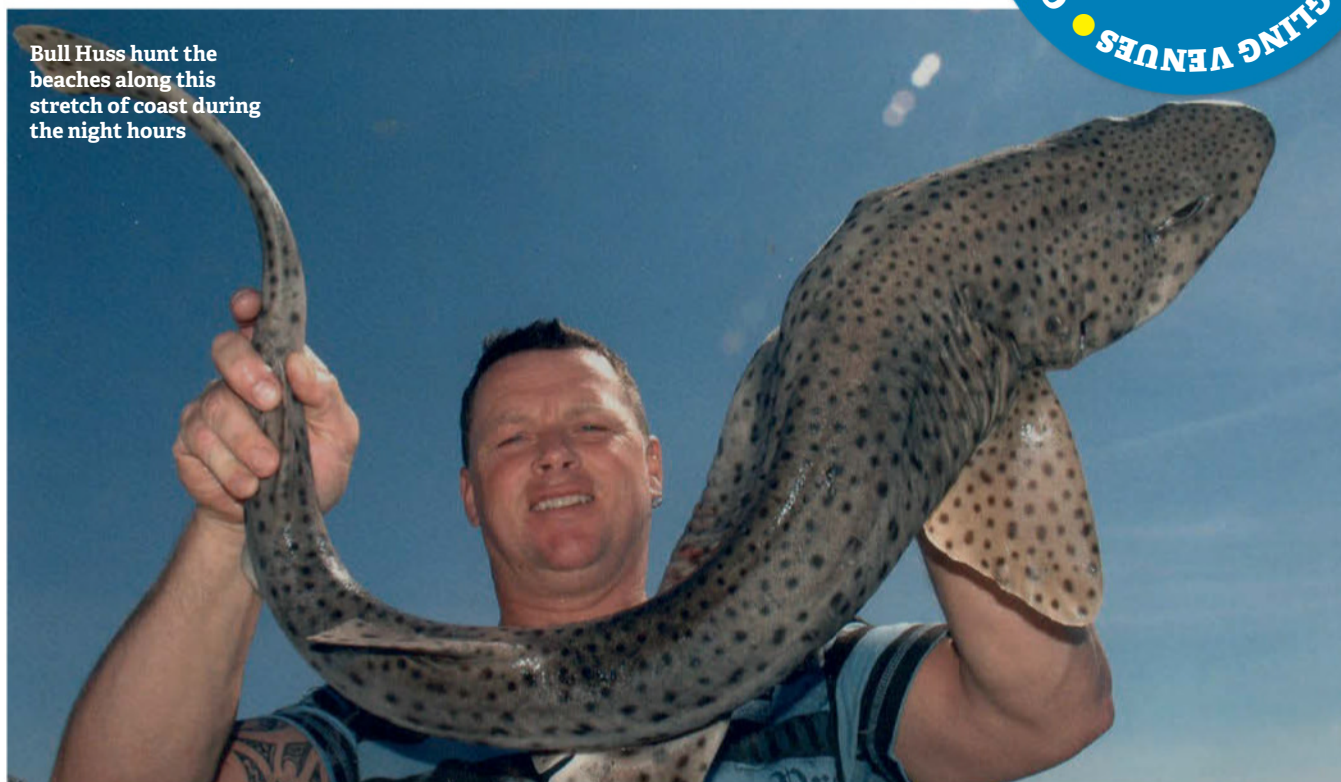


# STOKE POINT TO GARA POINT

Mike Millman takes us on a whistlestop tour of the venues and marks along this stretch of the south west Devon coastal path



Bull Huss hunt the beaches along this stretch of coast during the night hours



In 1880 a landowner, Lord Revelstoke, employed out of work fishermen to build a nine-mile-long carriageway around his estate in the top south west corner of Devon for the purpose of entertaining his guests to spectacular sea views. The section between Stoke Point and Gara Point, now part of the official coastal path, provides access to shore fishing for small-eyed ray, bass, wrasse and bull huss.

Stoke Point Beach is at the bottom of a steep hill, and two-thirds the way down on the right is an unadopted car park from which the carriageway starts its three mile journey to Gara and Mouthstone Points, both at the mouth of the Yealm Estuary.

## STOKE POINT

The beach either side of the central access point is good for thornback ray, greater spotted dogfish and too many lessers. For small eyed ray go further to the right until you spy long fingers of rock stretching out. The bottom is shingle



Wrasse fishing is popular and successful all along this stretch of coast

and sand so go for sandeel, razor fish, and crab; these are top of the bait list. A cast of 100m is ample. It was in this area that Terry Pooley caught his British record small eyed of 14lb 8oz.





## HILSEA POINT

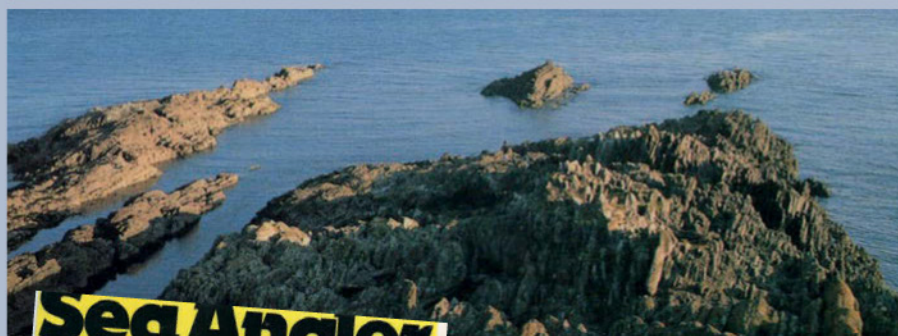
The path from the Warren car park goes down to connect with the carriageway giving access on the left to the second of the rated marks, Hilsea Point. It fishes well for much of the year giving small eyed ray and bass; wrasse are very numerous and there is one very deep gully only to be seen at the bottom of a big spring tide where colonies of wrasse live their lives under the overhangs of rock and kelp weed. It would fish well for conger but strangely these days nobody bothers with the species. Bull huss are not fussy feeders and will take any of the usual baits. In the winter months whiting and codling are possible.

## BLACKSTONE POINT

Go right at the bottom of the path from the Warren and this mark is close by. It offers general fishing with wrasse the prominent species. From here to Gara there are many good stations to fish from and the usual rock species are eager to take a bait.

## MOUTHSTONE POINT

Make a right turn at Gara and you again pick up the carriageway and on the left is Mouthstone Point which, being in the entrance to the Yealm, is a very good small-eyed ray mark. If you have come up on foot from Noss Mayo you will pass Old Cellars Beach from which years ago an 8lb wrasse was taken from the rocks on the left side of the beach.



Coastal rocks between Stoke Point and Hilsea make good casting stations



Terry Pooley with his British record small-eyed ray of 14lb 8oz which made the front cover of Sea Angler in August 1989

## GARA POINT

Next on the list and a good general rock fishing area, again with wrasse and congers of 35lb have been taken from here.

## ERME AND AVON ESTUARIES

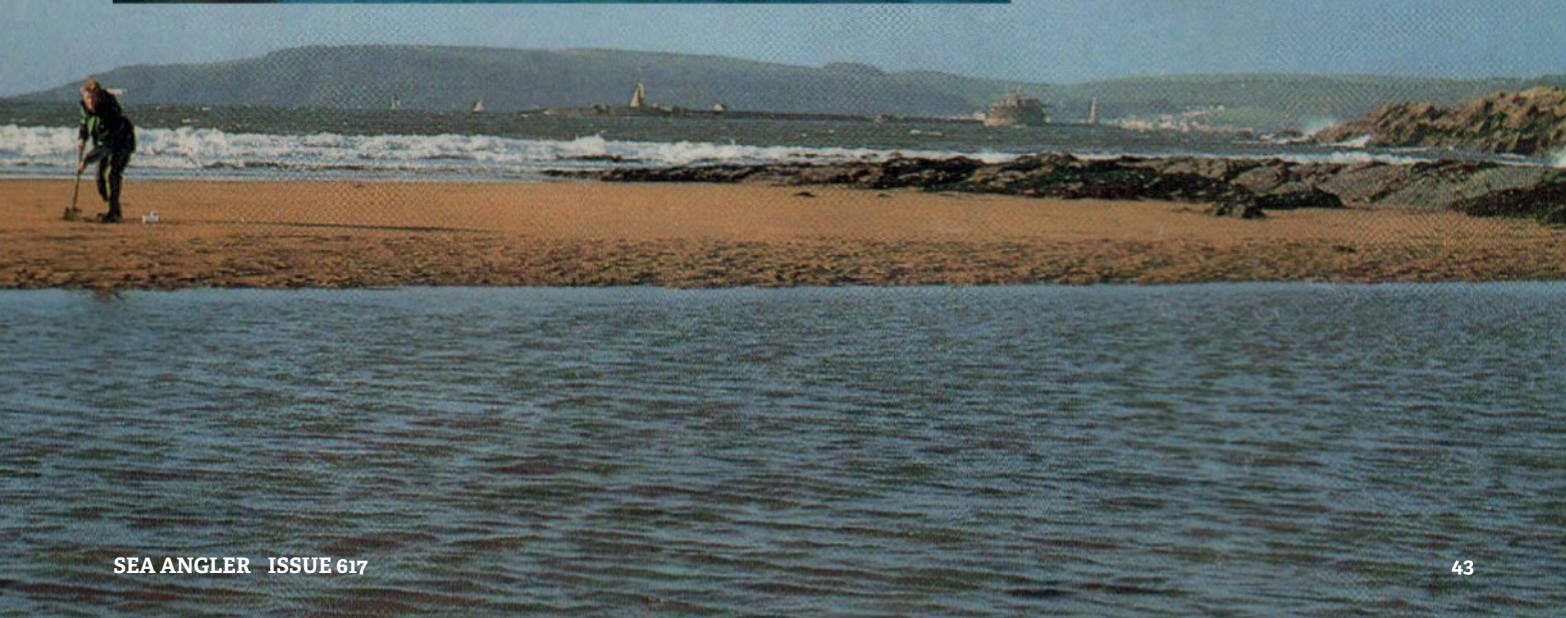
While not part of the carriageway but well worth a mention are the Erme and Avon estuaries both rated for ray and bass. The shore lines are long and accessible and produce well from April to early November. The Erme has a narrow neck at Bantham where bass pass through near the mouth and this is where the bait has to be placed to great effect. A flood tide gives the best result as the light begins to fade.

## REACHING THE REVIEWED AREA

At Yealmpton on the A379 follow the sign to Bridgend Noss Mayo. Go up the steep hill that by-passes Noss until you reach the cross roads. Go straight on signposted Stoke Point, and down the hill until the car park is on your right. If you go right at the cross roads and continue along for just over a mile you will come to the National Trust Warren car park. A third way to get to the area is from the village of Noss Mayo on foot up the long hill that brings you first to Mouthstone and then Gara. ■



The neck at Bantham in the Erme Estuary







# NEWTON POINT

A popular South Wales winter cod venue that can still produce a specimen fish with a little planning, persistence and a hard-running tide



**L**ocated adjacent to Trecco Bay caravan site east of the seaside town of Porthcawl, Newton Point is a popular shore venue that is capable of producing a wide range of popular species. Newton is one of those venues where it is advisable to first visit at low tide and note the location of the various reefs, ledges, sandy patches and other features found within the inter-tidal zone. If you fish here for the first time when these are covered by the tide, you'll likely spend much of your first session pulling free from snags and re-tying shock leaders.

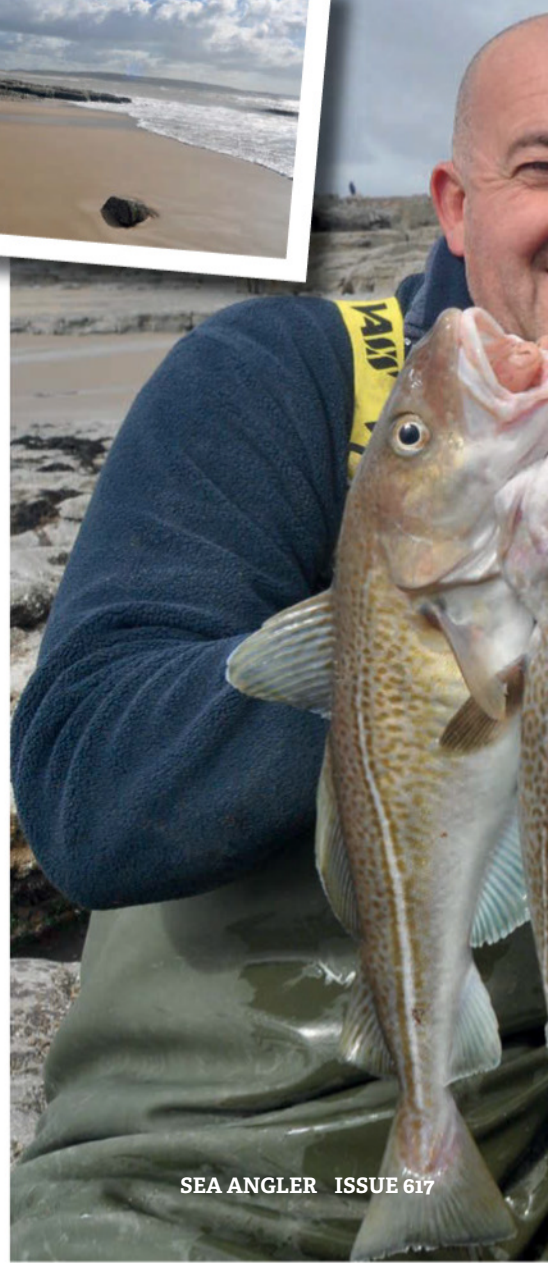
## SPECIES

During the winter and spring months most anglers fishing at Newton specifically target cod, which has a reputation for producing not only large numbers of fish, but occasional specimens,



too. Joe Arch, one time world champion, once caught not one but two twenty pounders fishing here within a period of just a few weeks.

In addition to cod, anglers fishing during the winter catch whiting, pouting, conger, dogfish and rockling, and as the year advances further into spring they can expect to add various thornback ray and bass. During the





summer Newton is one of the most productive smoothhound marks in South Wales, with other summer species including small-eyed and spotted rays, mullet, garfish, silver eels and flatfish. With the arrival of autumn most anglers will be eagerly awaiting the return of the cod, but it is at this time of the year that the biggest bass, rays and conger of the year are caught. Newton is a noted big eel venue, fish to better than 30lb are caught here most seasons.

## TACTICS

Newton Point can be fished at both high and low water, on all sizes of tide. For most species it is at its most productive when fished around two to two-and-a-half hours either side of low water on mid-range to spring tides. The fish feed best when the tide is running hard, and due to its location you quickly lose that important flow of water on the smaller tides. Fishing at night can be very productive, especially during the summer.

This is one of those venues where the ability to be able to cast a decent sized bait out a reasonable distance can be a distinct advantage, especially when fishing the ebb. When the tide is flooding good fish can often be caught much closer in. If you are specifically targeting bass a peeler crab fished more or less under your feet in the deeper gullies can produce some very good fish. Lure fishing can be very effective for bass here too.



## TACKLE

It is essential that all terminal rigs incorporate a rotten bottom, with both the pulley rig and fixed paternoster being popular with the anglers who fish here. Effective baits for cod include black lug, ragworm, squid, razorfish and, of course, peeler crab. Crab, notably 'edibles' and velvet swimming crabs, are a productive summer bait at Newton, especially for bass and smoothhounds. ■

## NEED TO KNOW

To get to Newton Point exit the M4 at junction 35 if travelling from the east or 37 if from the west and follow the signs first for Porthcawl and then Trecco Bay and Newton. Drive through the caravan park and park in a spacious car park adjacent to Newton Point.

It's a short rock to the water's edge. Take care when fishing here to ensure a flooding tide does not cut off your retreat to safety, especially at night.

### TACKLE SHOPS:

■ Ewenny Angling Centre:

Tel: 01656 650604

[www.reelfishing.co.uk](http://www.reelfishing.co.uk)

■ Keens Tackle and Guns:

Tel: 01656 722448

[www.keenstackleandguns.co.uk](http://www.keenstackleandguns.co.uk)

■ All About Angling:

Tel: 01639 885707

14 Station Road, Port Talbot, SA13 1JB







# BELTERS AT GALLOWS

West of Dungeness's deep water you'll find this shallow beach venue where the right tactics will land you a good chance of a late autumn bass



lug and some shellfish available. After a good blow it may just be a case of walking the tide line and filling your bucket! Remember if you have the luck to hit a bonanza of shellfish baits, remove from the shell and blanch before freezing or all you will have is soft, useless baits that will not stay on your hooks.

Father and son Dave and Mick Wood Brignall had a great session here on a mild October day after a good blow with bass to 44cm and a ray for Dave. This shows that if you get it right Galloways can produce some super sport. ■



*Your insight  
into the best shore  
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have to offer*

## NEED TO KNOW

To find this mark head to Dungeness and at Lydd you will see signs for Dengemarsh. Follow this until the road forks then go around the side of the firing range until you spot a small hut. There is a road to a small car park. This is an unmade road so slowly is the order of the day! Please check the ranges are not being used as access is restricted for safety reasons.



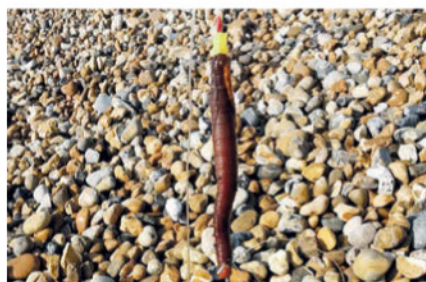
### TACKLE & BAIT

■ Romney Angling  
59 High St, New Romney TN28 8AH  
Tel: 01797 362889  
Web: [romneyangling.co.uk](http://romneyangling.co.uk)

**T**he shingle point at Dungeness has many faces. By the lighthouse the sea is often like a maelstrom with large waves and a fierce tide, seven-ounce breakout leads often thrown back at you by Mother Nature!

## TARGET SPECIES

However carry on west and the contours change, the sea becomes less fierce (unless a full-on southerly wind is blowing) and shallow beaches with gullies become the target for the late autumn angler with multiple bass catches possible in the right conditions. The days after a good blow up can be most productive and several species can be encountered including eels, thornback ray and flounder, all will take the favoured bait for here, fresh out black lugworms.



## TACTICS & BAIT

Load a good size hook with one or two good size worms and put the bait into a gully and a bite is almost guaranteed. This venue will fish from low to high tide, but if you arrive before the high you can spot the gullies at the casting distance needed to find them when the water floods. You can also collect bait here with black



TOP NORTH NORWAY SEA FISHING CENTRES

# NORWAY

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Tromsø is the gateway to a scenic region in the far north and is renowned for its world class sea fishing.

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**Lauklines** a serious sea fishing location. Using skippered charter boats, suitable for all size of groups. High standard of accommodation and top fishing advice.

**Skjervøy** offers great value world-class sea fishing. Merryfisher Marlin boats, big cod, coalfish, halibut, haddock and wolf fish. Scenic Fjord location.

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### Shakespeare Agility Saltwater FD Reels

The Agility Saltwater FD reels deliver a quality, saltwater proof reel for a great price. Holds up to 150m of 12lb mono or 300m of 30lb braid.



**SAVE £20!**

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SP4008	40	150m/12lb	£55.99	£30.00
SP4009	60	200m/20lb	£59.99	£40.00

### Shakespeare Agility Surf Reels

Purpose built for UK beach fishing, Shakespeare's Agility Surf range are designed to handle saltwater use, and are thoroughly tested for reliability. Features a large capacity, distance casting spool, matched with a smooth drag system.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SP3392	70	20lbs/240yds	£67.99	£40.00
SP3391	80	15lbs/360yds	£69.99	£40.00

### PENN Fathom II 15 SD CS Star Drag Casting Special Multiplier

A high performance reel for the shore angler who is looking for a reel to cast the maximum distance whilst still having the power to handle big fish and tough conditions.



CODE	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE1946	430m/0.35mm	£249.99	£199.00

### okuma Distance Surf Arena Fixed Spool Reel

- Graphite blade body
- Worm shaft Oscillation system
- 1 one-way roller bearing
- Cold Forged Aluminium Distance spool
- Flex aluminium line clip
- Bail lock system
- Holds 210m of 20lb mono



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SV20018	DSA-60	0.40mm/210m	£59.99	£50.00

### Daiwa Sealine SLOSH Multipliers

The SL20SH and SL30SH are two top drawer performers boasting powerful, high speed gearing. Nicknamed 'SLOSH' by their many fans around UK coastlines, they are excellent for all shore work, uptiding and a variety of down tide boat fishing.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
DW0631	SL20SH	250m/20lbs	£125.00	£90.00
DW0633	SL30SH	300m/20lbs	£125.00	£95.00

### SONIK SKS Black Surf Reel

The Sonik SKS8000 Surf reel is a full-sized surf reel which has been designed to meet the requirements of the UK beach angler. The spool design gives smooth long casts and the large handle helps to speed gear and fish back to the beach.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SO0481	8000	220yds/20lb	£49.99	£45.00

### FISHEAGLE Expert MKII 2pc Flotation Suit

The latest edition of the best selling Expert 2-piece Flotation suit is state of the art and has been produced and conforms to ISO 12402-5 & 12402-6 regulations. This update has all the functions and quality that you are used too, but with a modern touch and extra safety features. Bib and Brace trousers that are certified as a 50 Newton Buoyancy Aid having been specially designed to elevate the top half of your body when in water.



The suit features a reflective tape for night safety, a stitched-in belt with ITW Nexus buckle and a CE 394 whistle. Made from a light, wind and water-resistant fabric, they provide comfort for any inclement trips day or night as well as safety in the water.

RRP £139.99  
**OUR PRICE**  
**£109.99**

CODE	SIZE
RE0852	S
RE0853	M
RE0854	L
RE0855	XL
RE0856	2XL
RE0857	3XL

**NEW**

### Best Selling Century Rods

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PRICE
CN0181	Graphex Match Beach	13ft 6	125-175g	£515
CN0182	Graphex Supermatch LD Beachcaster	13ft	50-150g	£499
CN0183	Graphex Ultralite ST Beachcaster	13ft	50-125g	£475
CN0394	Fireblade Surf	13ft	4-6oz	£275
CN0180	Tip Tornado Beach	13ft 6	4-7oz	£520
CN0179	Tip Tornado Graphex Sport Beach	13ft 11	4-8oz	£560
CN0078	Kompressor SS Beachcaster	13ft 10	4-7oz	£465

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE OUR HUGE STOCK OF CENTURY RODS, INCLUDING BASS, BOAT & SPINNING RODS!

### PENN Rampage 2 Boat Rods

Engineered to be fished with braided fishing line, these rods can take the extra strain created by these hi-tech lines and will punish any fish.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PE1708	7ft4	30-50lb	4	£84.99	£50.00
PE1818	7ft6	12lb	2	£89.99	£40.00
PE1817	7ft6	20lb	2	£89.99	£40.00

### Shakespeare Excursion Bass Spinning Rods

A custom PU grip enables these rods to be used in whatever conditions are thrown at you, especially on the shoreline. A white blank offers unparalleled bite indication and actions and lengths to cover all in-shore opportunities.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SP4200	8ft	Med 15-40g	2	£44.99	£24.00
SP4202	8ft	Heavy 30-60g	2	£44.99	£25.00
SP4204	9ft	Med 15-45g	2	£49.99	£25.00

### PENN Tidal Surfcasting Rods

Tidal stands for everything you need for surfcasting: Super strong but lightweight and responsive 30T carbon blanks that are designed to have the best distance properties.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
PE2301	14ft	50-200g	3	£139.99
PE2302	14ft	100-225g	3	£139.99
PE2303	14ft	100-250g	3	£139.99
PE2304	14ft	100-300g	3	£139.99

### FISHEAGLE Saracen Complete Beach Combo

- Fisheagle Saracen 12ft 2pc 4-8oz Beachcaster
- Fisheagle Q8 8000 Surfcasting FS Reel loaded with 20lb Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet with 10 Popular assorted Ready Tied Bait Beach Rigs
- Spool of 40lb Powerstorm Vi Vis Shockleader

RE0721

RRP: £98.96

**£49.99**

### SONIK Vader XS Shore Rods

An incredible value surf rod that delivers unbeatable performance for the price. The blank is well balanced with a progressive casting action and excellent bite registration.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SO0622	13ft	4-6oz	2	£54.99	£50.00
SO0623	14ft	4-7oz	2	£64.99	£58.00
SO0624	15ft	4-7oz	3	£79.99	£72.00

### FISHEAGLE Aberdeen Hook 9146

Sporting a strong yet fine wire with a micro barb, these hooks ensure maximum hooking ability. **100 per pack.**

CODE	SIZE	RRP	NOW
TA1812	4	£6.99	£3.99
TA1813	2	£6.99	£3.99
TA1814	1	£6.99	£3.99
TA1815	1/0	£7.99	£3.99
TA1816	2/0	£7.99	£3.99
TA1817	3/0	£8.99	£3.99
TA1818	4/0	£8.99	£4.99
TA1819	6/0	£11.99	£5.99



### Shakespeare Agility 2 Boat Salt Rod Series

These rods feature lightweight, fast actioned, yet powerful blanks designed to maximise bite detection.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
SP3940	Boat	7ft	20lb	2	£40.00
SP3941	Boat	7ft	30lb	2	£40.00
SP3944	Braid	8ft	20-30lb	2	£50.00
SP3945	Expedition	7ft	20-30lb	4	£50.00
SP3946	Expedition	7ft	20-50lb	4	£50.00

### FISHEAGLE Saracen Beachcaster Rods

Designed to offer unbeatable value for money, ideal for the occasional angler or beginner. Suitable for general beach fishing but also capable of fishing in mixed ground and from offshore structures.

CODE	LENGTH	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
RE0864	12ft	4-8oz	2	£99.99	£29.99
RE0549	12ft	4-8oz	3	£69.99	£49.99
RE0550	13ft	4-8oz	3	£79.99	£54.99

### SONIK Black Shore Rods

The SKS Black Shore Rods bring the world of top end surf rods to a whole new accessible level.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
SO0244	Multiplier	12ft	4-6oz	2	£72.00
SO0245	Multiplier	13ft	4-6oz	2	£81.00

### Shakespeare Agility Luggage

- Packed with 20 separate resealable wallets, removable thanks to the strong velcro system.
- This practical rucksack sports a waterproof PVC backing, and is designed to be big enough to carry all the gear required, while remaining comfortable to carry.



CODE	MODEL	RRP	NOW
A SP3443	Rig Wallet	£24.99	£15.00
B SP3441	Rucksack	£39.99	£25.00

### SAVAGE GEAR Gravity Stick Lures - Mixed

A slim-profile, long-casting range of soft lures with a high specific gravity.

3 per pack.

RRP: £7.99  
**£3**

Ghost Hi Vis

COLOUR	PULSETAIL	PADDLETAIL	PINTAIL
High Vis	SV23757	SV23759	SV23761
Ghost	SV23758	SV23760	SV23762

### Gravity Stick Lures - Single Colour

Long-casting soft lures, each with a very different and unique action.

RRP: £9.99  
**£3.50**

6 per pack.

COLOUR	PINTAIL	PULSETAIL	PADDLETAIL
White	SV22087	SV22091	SV22095
Wakasagi	SV22088	SV22092	SV22096
Kahki	SV22089	SV22093	SV22097
Green Silver UV	SV22090	SV22094	SV22098

### SAVAGE GEAR Gravity Bass Stick Kit

A slim-profile, long-casting range of soft lures with a high specific gravity. This 30pc+17pc kit is ideal for those seeking to fish with these brand new lures but need each colour in the 3 tail types with hooks and weights.

**BACK IN STOCK!**  
SV22099  
RRP: £34.99  
**£29.99**





### KINETIC Fantastica CC Bass Combo

Precisely tailored for freshwater fishing. Regardless which model you select, you'll find the rod action just right for many of your favorite techniques.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
KN1528	7ft	5-24g	2	£44.99	£34.99
KN0870	7ft	12-40g	2	£44.99	£35.99
KN0871	8ft	12-40g	2	£49.99	£38.99
KN0872	9ft	20-60g	2	£59.99	£44.99
KN0873	10ft	15-50g	2	£64.99	£49.99

### Abu Garcia Ambassador C 7000

The 7000 series from Abu Garcia has long been a mainstay for a wide variety of target species and methods, and now it's stronger and more ergonomic than ever.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
PU4202	7000 RHW	230m/0.46mm	£159.99	£150.00
PU4203	7001 LHW	230m/0.46mm	£159.99	£150.00

### Shakespeare Seat Boxes

- All new design
- Made from high quality durable filled-polypropylene
- Supplied with Carry Strap and 1 Side Tray
- 52x38x40cm

ALL COLOURS  
OUR PRICE

CODE	COLOUR
SP4050	Blue
SP4051	Black

**£79.99**

### Daiwa J-Braid Grand

Introducing J-BRAID x8 GRAND, the new Ultimate Braid in Daiwa's J-Braid Family. Strong, and resistant to abrasion yet well-bodied enough to lay smoothly on the spool.

11LB 0.06MM	15LB 0.10MM	ALL SIZES
DW9823	DW9824	RRP: £47.99

**£25**

### WESTIN Salty Lures

This bestselling Westin lure has it all.

COLOUR	7CM / 12G	9CM / 18G	11CM / 26G
Canned Sardine	WN2086	WN2104	WN2122
GFR	WN2088	WN2106	WN2124
Dotted Sardine	WN2089	WN2107	WN2125
Diamond Thief	WN2090	WN2108	WN2126
Pattengrisen	WN2093	WN2111	WN2129
3D Yellow Ayu	WN3177	WN3184	WN3191
3D Brown Headlight	WN3178	WN3185	WN3192
3D Sparkling Herring	WN3179	WN3186	WN3193
UV Hottie Pearl	WN3180	WN3187	WN3194
PRICE	£5.99	£6.50	£6.99

### SAVAGE GEAR Sandeel Pencil Lures

Extreme low cast design for amazing coverage. Supplied with both a single and a treble hook, with the option to add the treble hook to the belly as well.

COLOUR	9CM 13G	15CM 30G	COLOUR	9CM 13G	12.5CM 19G	15CM 30G
Sandeel	SV21960	SV21522	Black Copper UV	SV21966	SV21528	-
Sandeel Ghost	SV21961	SV21523	Blue Silver UV	SV21967	SV21529	-
Black Silver	SV21962	SV21524	Matte White	SV22335	SV23240	SV23245
Motor Oil UV	SV21963	SV21525	Black Pearl	SV22336	SV23241	SV23246
Black&Red UV	SV21964	SV21526	Lemon Candy	SV22337	SV23242	SV23247
Matt White Tobis	SV21965	SV21527	Cotton Candy	SV22338	SV23243	SV23248
RRP	£9.99	£10.99	Sayoris	SV22339	SV23244	SV23249
PRICE	£8.99	£9.99	PRICE	£8.99	£10.99	£11.99

### Shakespeare Boat Outfit

This boat rod and reel combo is great value for money. Ideal for someone just starting fishing as it gives you a good chance to experience the thrill without a big bill. The reel is right hand wind and also loaded with 30lb line.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP4001	7ft	20-30lb	2	£49.99	£40.00

### Shakespeare Agility HRF/LRF Rods

A new concept rod designed to work small lures and jig heads up to 40gms from boats targeting smaller ground dwelling species such as wrasse, small pollack, cod, coalfish, gurnards, bream, plaice, haddock and whiting.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SP3484	6ft 7	0.5-7g	2	£28.00
SP3485	7ft	5-15g	2	£30.00

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SP3948	8ft	10-20g	2+2	£35.00
SP3949	8ft 6	20-40g	2+2	£35.00

### FISHEAGLE Saracen Mackerel Outfit

- Fisheagle Saracen Mackerel Rod 11ft 1-3oz 2pc
- Fisheagle Q8 Surf Reel loaded with Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet and 10 Assorted Bait Rigs

U117FSH  
RRP: £89.97  
**£24.99**

### TFG Force8 Competition Tripod

- Fully extended fishing height nearly 8ft
- V shaped main leg
- Round legs fold and clip into main frame
- Fully adjustable butt cap rod rest
- Inbuilt trace hanger
- hooks and center hook for luggage/buckets
- Pack down height of 6ft
- Weight 2.8kg

AF5248  
RRP: £59.99  
**£40**

### FISHEAGLE Hunt Lures

The all-new Fisheagle Hunt Lures are ready for all salt and freshwater fish.

COLOUR	28G 12CM	43G 14CM
Green/Silver	TA2529	TA2534
Fluro/Green/Yellow	TA2530	TA2535
Fluro/Red/Black	TA2531	TA2536
Black Pearl	TA2532	TA2537
Silver Pearl	TA2533	TA2538
RRP	£4.99	£5.50
PRICE	£2.99	£3.50

### Shakespeare Firebird Beachcaster Outfit

The Shakespeare Firebird Rod and Reel Combo is a 2 piece mid-action rod with a fixed spool reel that comes pre-spooled with 20lb clear mono. Easy to put together and use, it's ideal for kids and beginner or intermediate anglers, or as an affordable backup or occasional use rod.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP3809	12ft	4-8oz	2	£49.99	£35.00

### Shakespeare Omni Surf Rods

Shakespeare's great value Omni range is ideal for beginners and more experienced anglers alike, these rods maximise performance and quality at this key Shakespeare price point.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP3994	10ft	4-6oz	3	£99.99	£30.00
SP3995	12ft	4-6oz	3	£49.99	£40.00

### FISHEAGLE Saracen Complete Beach

- Fisheagle Saracen 12ft 2pc Beachcaster Casts 2-4oz
- Fisheagle Q8 8000 Surfcasting Fixed Spool Reel
- Reel is Loaded with 20lb Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet with 10 Popular assorted Ready Tied Bait Beach rigs
- Spool of 40lb Powerstorm VI Vis Shockleader

RE0721  
RRP: £98.96  
**£49.99**

### DAM PackDown & Surf Tripods

Top choice for portable lightweight rod support, compact when collapsed and rock solid once in position!

CODE	MODEL	COL.	LEN	RRP	NOW
SV17772	PackDown	Silver	6ft	£59.99	£40.00
DM2878	Surf	Blue	6ft	£69.99	£40.00

### TRAVELER Guerilla Beachcaster Rods

A well priced continental rod that packs a punch at a price everybody can afford. Ideally suited to fishing clean beaches when targeting species such as flounder, whiting, plaice and dogfish.

CODE	LENGTH	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
TX7658	13ft 6	100-200g	2	£92.99
TX7656	13ft 7	100-200g	3	£91.99
TX7657	14ft 7	100-200g	3	£97.99

### SHIMANO STC Travel Rods

The STC Boat rods are the ultimate sea spinning rods and cater for both shore and boat fishing situations.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SU12363	Travel Spin	8ft 2	14-40g	6	£164.99
SU12364	Travel Spin	8ft 2	50-100g	6	£174.99
SU12344	Travel Spin	8ft 10	50-100g	5	£134.99
SU14275	Boat Spin	8ft	150-300g	4	£134.99
SU12365	Shore Boat	9ft 10	150-300g	4+2	£184.99

### FISHEAGLE Saracen Beachcaster Outfit

- Fisheagle Saracen Beachcaster Full Carbon 13ft 4-8oz 3pc Rod
- Shakespeare Agility Surf 70 Reel
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet and 10 Assorted Bait Rigs
- Lureflash Powerstorm Monofilament

U116FSH  
RRP: £171.96  
**£89.99**

### MARUKYU Isome Worms

These supremely versatile worms are available in a range of colours and sizes, with their extremely lifelike bodies and action proving irresistible fished in a range of methods.

ALL WORMS FROM ONLY **£6.99**

### SAVAGE GEAR Sandeel V2 2+1 Pack

This super realistic sandeel imitation will fool even the wariest of predator fish.

COLOUR	12CM 22G	14CM 33G	15.5CM 46G	17.5CM 65G
Green Silver	SV23661	SV23667	SV23673	SV23679
Khaki	SV23662	SV23668	SV23674	SV23680
White Pearl Silver	SV23663	SV23669	SV23675	SV23681
Blue Pearl Silver	SV23664	SV23670	SV23676	SV23682
Lemon Back	SV23665	SV23671	SV23677	SV23683
Pink Pearl Silver	SV23666	SV23672	SV23678	SV23684
PRICE	£8.99	£9.99	£10.99	£11.99

EVEN MORE V2 LURES AVAILABLE ONLINE!

### SAVAGE GEAR 3D Line Thru Sandeel Lures

A 3D Scan of a real sandeel, has provided the perfect details and body shape for this great line-thru hard lure!

CODE	LEN	WGT	COLOUR	RRP	NOW
SV26487	150mm	27g	Black & Red UV	£14.99	£4.00
SV26488	150mm	27g	Black Silver Green Pearl	£14.99	£4.00
SV26489	150mm	27g	Brown Ghost	£14.99	£4.00

### SAVAGE GEAR 3D Line Thru Sandeel Lures

COLOUR	8.5CM 11G	11CM 15G	12.5CM 19G	15CM 27G
Sandeel	SV19558	SV19016	SV17836	-
Sandeel Ghost	SV19559	SV19017	SV17837	SV17843
Motoroil UV	SV19560	SV19019	SV17841	SV17847
Black & Red UV	SV19561	SV19020	SV19353	-
Black N Yellow Glow	SV19562	SV19354	SV19350	SV19352
Black Ghost	-	-	SV17839	SV17845
Gold Pout	SV20550	-	SV20560	-
Pink Pout	SV20552	-	SV20562	-
Matt White Tobis	-	-	SV19349	SV19351
RRP	£9.99	£10.99	£11.99	£15.99
PRICE	£8.99	£9.99	£9.99	£12.99

A 3D Scan of a real sandeel, has provided the perfect details and body shape for this great line-thru hard lure!

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# MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Catch a specimen fish to stand a chance of winning some great prizes from Okuma

**F**ANCY WINNING A NEW ROD AND REEL COMBO from Okuma by catching a great fish? In our catch competition, your target is to catch one over the weight given on our nominated species list. If you do, enter our contest and you automatically stand a chance of winning either our shore or boat prize.

Each issue we award a superb Okuma package to the captor of the best shore fish and best boat-caught fish, both chosen on merit.

Prizes are awarded at our discretion and Okuma reserves the right to send alternative prizes.



**Dave Williams, Pontypridd**  
**FISH:** 8lb 6oz bass **BAIT:** Whole sandeel  
**DATE:** 12/11/22 **VENUE:** Aberavon beach



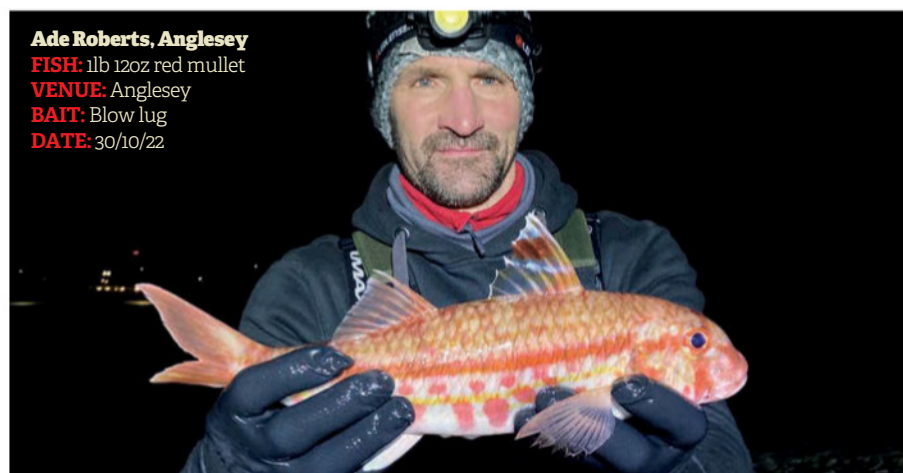
**Gary Siddall, Bristol**  
**FISH:** 12lb 6oz small eyed ray  
**VENUE:** Minehead, aboard Osprey



**Stephen Everett**  
**FISH:** 30lb tope  
**VENUE:** Holyhead



**Andrew Oldfield, Faversham**  
**FISH:** 7lb 8oz bass **BAIT:** Bluey & squid wrap  
**VENUE:** Walmer, Kent **DATE:** 12/11/22



**Ade Roberts, Anglesey**  
**FISH:** 1lb 12oz red mullet  
**VENUE:** Anglesey  
**BAIT:** Blow lug  
**DATE:** 30/10/22



**Kevin Newitt, Plymouth**  
**FISH:** 14lbs 2oz small eyed ray  
**VENUE:** Whitsand Bay **BAIT:** Sandeel & squid  
**DATE:** 11/11/22





**Lee Gibbs, Saltdean**  
**FISH:** 13lb 11oz bass **BAIT:** Mackerel head  
**VENUE:** Brighton beach **DATE:** 21/10/22



**James Pritchett, Gosport**  
**FISH:** 5lb bass  
**BAIT:** Freelined king rag  
**DATE:** 1/11/22



**Marc Quigley, Haverfordwest,**  
**FISH:** 10lb 3oz bull huss  
**BAIT:** Luminous muppets and full squid  
**VENUE:** Strumble Head, Pembrokeshire  
**DATE:** 13/10/22



**DAVE BENNETT, Congleton**  
**FISH:** 17.5lb conger eel **BAIT:** Squid and Bluey  
**VENUE:** Perch Rock, Newbrighton  
**DATE:** 29/10/22



**Glenn Scrogham, Ulverston**  
**FISH:** 2lb 4oz flounder **VENUE:** Ulverston  
**DATE:** 16/10/2022 **BAIT:** Blow lug



**Caroline Aylett, Stoke on Trent**  
**VENUE:** Preston Beach, Weymouth  
**FISH:** 3lb 8oz bass  
**BAIT:** Mackerel and squid wrap  
**DATE:** 26/9/22



**Ryan Hopewell, East Cowes**  
**FISH:** 13lb 3oz undulate ray  
**VENUE:** Isle of Wight  
**BAIT:** Squid/mackerel wrap  
**DATE:** 27/10/22

**MONTHLY WINNERS:**  
**SHORE:** Kevin Newitt, Plymouth  
**BOAT:** Graeme Hunter, Newquay



## MISSION RECORD HOLDERS

### BASS

■ **Shore:** 19lb 13oz 8dr  
John Locker  
■ **Boat:** 19lb 4oz  
Wayne Milton

### BLACK BREAM

■ **Shore:** 5lb 5oz 1dr  
C Le Monnier  
■ **Boat:** 6lb 6oz  
Tony Heart

### COUCH'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 2lb 15oz 1dr  
Lynton Carre  
■ **Boat:** 7lb Becky  
Lee Hodges

### GILTHEAD BREAM

■ **Shore:** 9lb 8oz  
Scott Smy  
■ **Boat:** 10lb 2oz  
Roger Simcox

### PANDORA'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 1lb 2oz  
Baz Wheeler  
■ **Boat:** 6lb 10z  
Jordan Colwell

### RAY'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 6lb 10z  
Jordan Colwell  
■ **Boat:** 6lb 4oz  
Patrick Meegan

### RED BREAM

■ **Shore:** 6lb 12oz  
Mark Griggs  
■ **Boat:** 13lb 10oz  
Tony Hayward

### BULL HUSS

■ **Shore:** 21lb 9oz  
M Urquhart  
■ **Boat:** 23lb  
D Nicholson

### BALLAN WRASSE

■ **Shore:** 9lb 4oz  
Darren Swift  
■ **Boat:** 9lb  
Glen Carter

### CUCKOO WRASSE

■ **Shore:** 1lb 13oz  
Joe Edward  
■ **Boat:** 2lb 4oz  
D Glendenning

### COALFISH

■ **Boat:** 34lb  
Peter Sillito  
■ **Shore:** 32lb  
Adrian Lloyd

### COD

■ **Boat:** 49lb  
Tony Urwin  
■ **Shore:** 66lb 8oz  
Andy Eke

### CONGER EEL

■ **Boat:** 109lb 8oz  
Roger Beer  
■ **Shore:** 2lb 4oz 12dr  
Jason Tucker

### DAB

■ **Boat:** 11b 15oz  
Sean McCaffrey  
■ **Shore:** 5lb 5oz  
Phil Troke

### DOVER SOLE

■ **Boat:** 4lb 6oz  
M Le Moignan  
■ **Shore:** 4lb 14oz 8dr  
Paul Blehs

### FLOUNDER

■ **Boat:** 5lb 3oz 14dr  
Philip Dawson  
■ **Shore:** 76lb  
Peter Sillito

### HALIBUT

■ **Boat:** 3lb 3oz  
G Newcombe  
■ **Shore:** 2lb 14oz  
Philip Lewis

### LEMON SOLE

■ **Shore:** 6lb 11oz  
Martin Coates  
■ **Boat:** 8lb 0oz 8dr  
M Mowbray

### PLAICE

■ **Shore:** 18lb 11oz  
Ross McKay  
■ **Boat:** 88lb 6oz 8dr  
Gareth Laurenson

### GOLDEN GREY MULLET

■ **Shore:** 3lb 8oz 8dr  
D Woolcombe  
■ **Boat:** 4lb 11oz  
Stephan Martini

### TRIGGER FISH

■ **Boat:** 5lb  
Gordon Baines  
■ **Shore:** 3lb 7oz  
Mark Cundick

### MULLET

■ **Shore:** 11lb 8oz  
Glenn Lane  
■ **Boat:** 11lb  
Chris Harris

### POLLACK

■ **Shore:** 18lb 4oz  
Chris Griffin  
■ **Boat:** 27lb 10z  
Barry James

### BLONDE RAY

■ **Shore:** 31lb  
Gary Tucker  
■ **Boat:** 39lb 10oz  
S Underwood

### COMMON SKATE

■ **Shore:** 232lb  
Lew Marsden  
■ **Boat:** 249lb  
Hans Dykman

### CUCKOO RAY

■ **Shore:** 4lb 11oz  
Kevin Hughes  
■ **Boat:** 5lb 8oz  
L Longmore

### EAGLE RAY

■ **Shore:** 102lb  
Ray Lewis  
■ **Boat:** 52lb  
Chris Wood

### ELECTRIC RAY

■ **Shore:** 11lb 10z 5dr  
Pierre Garrick  
■ **Boat:** 21lb 7oz 12dr  
David Bree

### MARBLED RAY

■ **Shore:** 17lb 8oz  
M Robertson  
■ **Boat:** 21lb  
Dave Lynes

### SPOTTED RAY

■ **Shore:** 7lb 14oz  
Liam Warder  
■ **Boat:** 8lb 4oz  
Neil Buckett

### STINGRAY

■ **Shore:** 75lb 4oz  
Ed Spring  
■ **Boat:** 69lb 8oz  
John Styles

### THORNBACK RAY

■ **Shore:** 22lb 11oz 10dr  
Mike Johnson  
■ **Boat:** 24lb 11oz  
Gary Mewdell

### UNDULATE RAY

■ **Shore:** 20lb 10z  
Steve Harder  
■ **Boat:** 25lb 2oz  
Scott Russell

### ANGEL SHARK

■ **Boat:** 54lb  
John Johnson  
■ **Shore:** 253lb  
James Fellows

### BLUE SHARK

■ **Shore:** 194lb 4oz  
Andrew Griffith  
■ **Boat:** 550lb  
Simon Davidson

### PORBEAGLE SHARK

■ **Boat:** 350lb  
Bob Smith  
■ **Shore:** 28lb 10oz  
Steve Cullen

### THRESHER SHARK

■ **Boat:** 30lb  
Trevor Knight  
■ **Shore:** 18lb 14oz  
William Roche

### SMOOTH HOUND

■ **Boat:** 86lb  
David Cook  
■ **Shore:** 66lb 10oz  
Michael Bell

### TOPE

■ **Boat:** 27lb 3oz  
Paul Westaway  
■ **Shore:** 9lb 5oz  
Tommy Fraser

### TORSK

■ **Shore:** 20lb 2oz  
Eddy Barham  
■ **Boat:** 32lb 1oz  
Steve Scally

### WHITE SKATE

■ **Boat:** 160lb  
Pete Hammersley



**Graeme Hunter, Newquay**  
**FISH:** 6lb 5oz 4dr Couch's bream  
**BAIT:** Squid/king rag  
**VENUE:** Newquay  
**DATE:** 18/10/22



**David Foden, Colyton**  
**FISH:** 12lb bull huss  
**BAIT:** Squid and lug worm cocktail  
**VENUE:** Portishead  
**DATE:** 1/11/22



**Chris Fiatal, Middlesbrough**  
**FISH:** 7.5lb cod  
**BAIT:** Cart, squid, peeler crab and mussel  
**VENUE:** Marine Drive, Scarborough  
**DATE:** 13/11/22

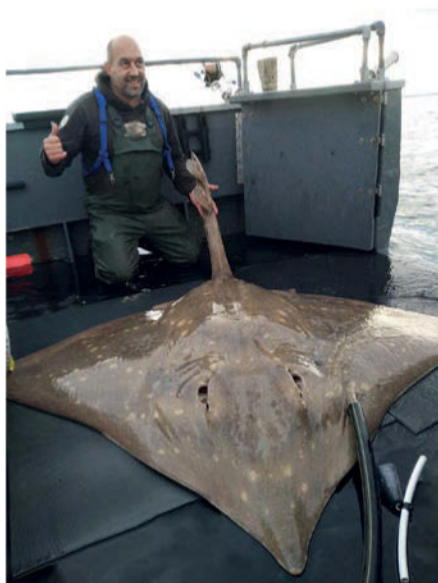


**Connor Harvey**  
**FISH:** 2lb 9oz  
red mullet  
**BAIT:** black lug  
**VENUE:** Chesil  
Beach  
**DATE:** 14/11/22



**John Kirk, Weston-super-Mare**  
**FISH:** 7lb 9oz bass  
**BAIT:** Fresh rag  
**VENUE:** Lower Light, Burnham  
**DATE:** 12/11/22



**Harry Hancock**

**FISH:** 223lb skate **BAIT:** Whole mackerel  
**VENUE:** Burghead, Scotland  
**DATE:** 12/11/22

**Damo White, Bridgend**

**FISH:** 17lb 7oz blonde ray **BAIT:** Bluey and squid  
**VENUE:** Sand Spit, South Wales

**Shane Foster, Somerset**

**FISH:** 10lb 8oz blonde ray **BAIT:** Bluey and squid  
**VENUE:** Watchet **DATE:** 30/10/22

## HOW TO ENTER

Entry by email only to [sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk)

Please supply these details: angler's name, age, address, telephone number, email, type of fish, weight of fish, where caught, date caught, bait/rig, whether caught from shore or boat, if from charter boat, give name of boat, port and skipper. Please state if the fish was retained or returned.

## YOUR MISSION TARGETS...

Catch a fish on this list at the weight or above in your region to qualify for the chance to win prizes in our Mission catch competition.

To enter, send us the details requested above and email that information and your picture to [sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk).

	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	7lb	9lb
Black bream	2lb	3lb
Red bream	2lb	3lb
Couch's & Pandora's bream	11lb 8oz	11lb 8oz
Gilthead bream	4lb	4lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	3lb	5lb
Bull huss	8lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	10lb
Conger	20lb	40lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Halibut	20lb	20lb
Ling	5lb	19lb
Mullet	4lb	5lb
Golden grey mullet	2lb	2lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coalfish	6lb	12lb
Common skate	60lb	100lb
Blonde ray	12lb	17lb
Thornback ray	9lb	14lb
Small-eyed/undulate	7lb	11lb
Ray (other)	3lb	5lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	10lb	14lb
Spurdog	7lb	11lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Trigger fish	2lb	3lb
Turbot	10lb	13lb
Wrasse (ballan)	4lb	4lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	60lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	100lb

## Send us your entries and win some great prizes

■ **SHORE LURE OPTION:**  
 Solaris 4000 or 5000 reel  
 RRP: £60  
 Epixor 15-50g rod  
 RRP: £80



■ **SHORE BAIT OPTION:**  
 DSA reel  
 RRP: £60  
 Wave Power surf rod

■ **BOAT**  
 Classic CLX  
 RRP: £60  
 Cortez Boat Rod  
 RRP: £90



## THE RULES...

- Only fish caught since November 2022 are eligible.
- We must see a picture of the fish.
- We may refuse an entry. ■ Enter by email only (please include all of the information requested in How to Enter panel) to [sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk)
- Prizes as stated (Okuma reserves the right to send alternatives).
- No correspondence will be entered into.

**Steven Gray, Bristol**

**FISH:** blonde ray **BAIT:** Whole squid  
**VENUE:** Avonmouth

**Brad Chapman, Guisborough**

**FISH:** 7lb 3oz cod **BAIT:** Cart, squid & mussel  
**DATE:** 5/11/22



# YOUNG RODS

Sea Angler's celebration of the great angling achievements of its many younger readers



**Ezra Lummis**, age nine, with his 3lb 10oz bass caught on ragworm at Langstone Harbour in Hampshire on October 14th



**Cody Bentley**, aged eight, from Hull was fishing the River Humber and landed his pb cod of 45cm



**Beatrix Mitchell-Parkin** was fishing with her dad and sister from Horton beach on the Gower peninsula when she caught this school bass





A 32lb tope caught by **James Bennett**, age 12, off the Isle of Wight.

In association with



▼ **Ada Hemingway**, aged three, with her first ever fish. After showing a keen interest in sea fishing, looking through Sea Angler magazine, asking lots of questions and pestering mum and dad they got her a little float road and went in search of micro species in harbours. Ada ended up catching this a coalfish in Burnmouth Harbour.



▲ **Alfie Peart**, aged 11, caught this 6lb cod on his new Limitless Universal match rod baited with cart wing on a pulley Pennell rig



## £25 TACKLE VOUCHER WINNERS



Fishingmegastore.com awards a £25 voucher prize to each of two winners - the youngster with the best shore fish and another with the top boat catch. The winners can use the voucher to select tackle from **Fishingmegastore.com** which is based in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

■ Send your Young Rods entries by email to [sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk)





# CORNISH CRACKERS

Mike Millman recalls the stories of more historic catches in Cornish waters of a quality unlikely to ever be repeated



Andrew and his young brother David who secured the tunny show it to the camera

**T**he sea off the west and north Cornwall coast often attracts species normally found in the Atlantic, the Bay of Biscay and those around the Azores and Madeira. In 1985 a fish initially thought to be a shark was seen over several days swimming close to Newlyn Harbour. When it swam into the docks area it was identified as being a member of the tuna family, and locally based 15-year-old Andrew Pascoe, a member of the Mounts Bay Angling Society, resolved to catch it.

His first attempt failed despite the fish coming close to his spun bait, but his second session had a successful outcome. He was up at 4am and on the harbour's North Quay

within the hour, having collected a couple of fresh mackerel at the fish-market (his father was an inshore commercial fisherman as Andrew would also later become).

A strip cut from the silver part, roughly eight inches in length, was cast out and drawn back through the area where the fish had been showing at the surface. At around the tenth attempt the bait was taken and so began a long battle before an audience of fishermen, market workers and some friends of Andrew who was using a 50lb mono trace, a 3/0 hook and 35lb reel line on a fixed spool reel. The backing was 25lb braid, so care was needed if the reel line was not to be compromised.

I spoke with Andrew just a few weeks ago and he vividly recalled the fish putting in

fierce runs at least 20 times, often getting dangerously close to old pilings along a disused jetty. It was only maximum pressure that saved the day and several times the reel backing could be seen; it was a very close-run thing. After 30 minutes or so the fish began to tire and it was worked into shallow water. Descending the 20ft harbour wall ladder, crossing the mud and wading waist deep was the only way to bring it within gaffing range, this provided by his younger brother David. The fish was lifted up to the deck of a grounded trawler where more pictures were taken.

At the commercial fish market the scales showed 66lb 12oz. The following morning Andrew's mother, Mary, brought him to the Plymouth Marine Biological



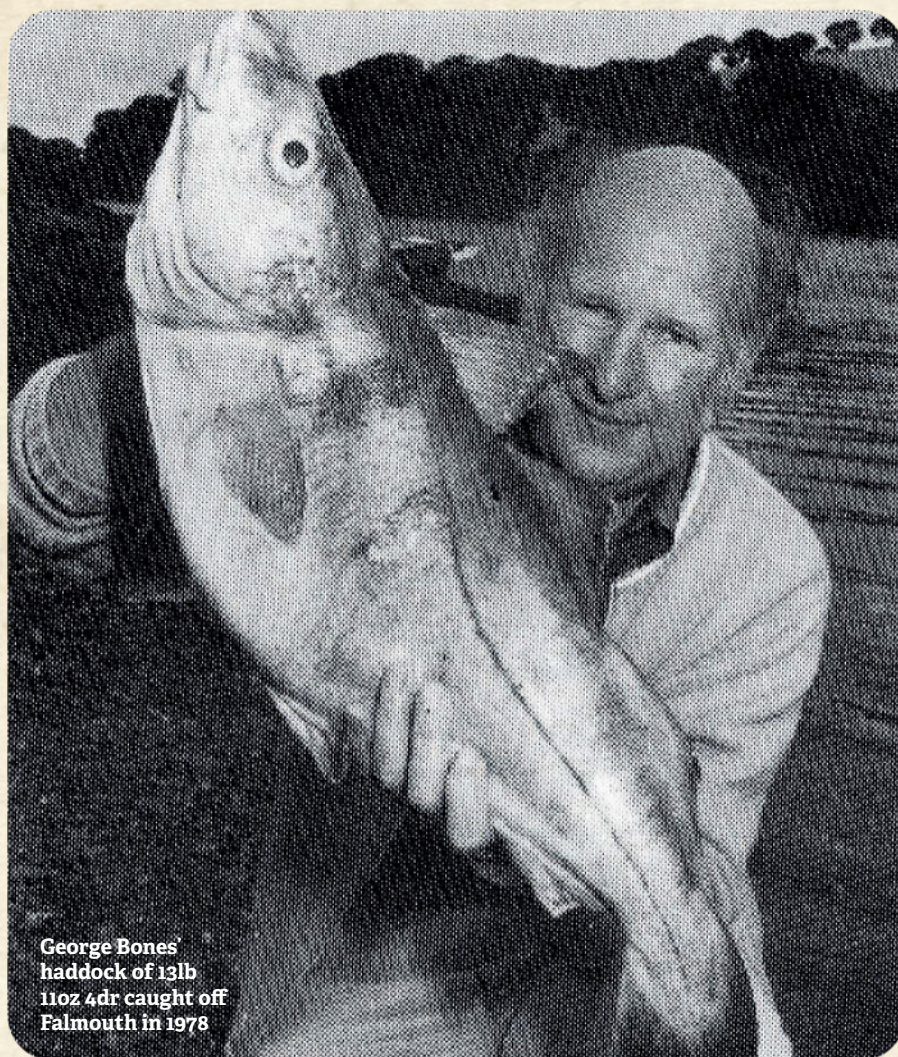
Laboratory where I was waiting for them. Marine scientists Tony Mattacola and Roger Swimfen identified the fish at first as a long-finned tuna but for back-up had a consultation with Alwyne Wheeler of the British Museum's Natural History department and the identification was revised several days later when the all-important certificate of positive identification, as demanded by the British Record Rod Caught Fish Committee, was issued confirming it was, in fact, the big-eyed variety. It was measurement of the fins that brought the final decision. More pictures were taken, one of me by Mary photographing Andrew with his magnificent fish. The big-eyed set a UK and European shore record and is unlikely to be beaten and it is without dispute the finest example of a shore fishing success in British waters.

## LUNKER LING

In Cornish waters both commercial and recreational angling have produced fish of remarkable size: the ultimate fish a gigantic specimen ling of 124lb long-lined at the Seven Stones reef around 1850. The weight is authentic and reported by Jonathan Couch in his *History of the Fishes of the British Islands*



**Big ling were always a feature of the Laurel – this one caught by Mike Hodge of the Specimen Angling Group weighed 36lb**



**George Bones' haddock of 13lb 11oz 4dr caught off Falmouth in 1978**

The first rod caught fish claimed as a British Record was also caught at the Seven Stones Reef, this time in 1912 by H. C. Nicol who informed the British Sea Anglers' Society of his success. The Nicol fish was caught during the summer and carried no roe; if it had the weight would probably have been 8-10lb heavier.

It remained the acknowledged record until 1975 when, at a wreck in the Western Approaches, Brixham's Henry Solomons, who was fishing from the Mevagissey based Eileen skippered by Bernard and Les Hunkin, took a superb specimen of 57lb 2½oz. Like Nicol's ling it was a summer capture and therefore there was no roe to enhance the weight, had it been the case it would most likely have made 70lb. The next morning I was on the Mevagissey quay at 7am to do the pictures.

## HELL OF A HADDOCK

Very few haddock make double figures, even in Scottish waters, making the UK record of 13lb 11oz 4dr exceptional. It was caught off Falmouth by George Bones from Leo 1 skippered by Ken Dodgson. It is one of those records that has not been challenged in 42 years and may last as long again.

## COLIN'S CONGER

Colin Williams began his charter angling in the early 1960s with the no frills Cecile Laura and although lacking electronics he was highly skilled at locating wrecks within 12 miles of Mevagissey with only the aid of shore markers, binoculars and his ability to read the water, this allied to running time and weather. A favourite wreck was that of the freighter the Silver Laurel sunk by a U-boat in the last part of the Second World War.

A vessel of 7,000 tons she produced great catches for a number of years. Colin subsequently gave up his school-mastering career to become a full-time charter man with the much larger custom built Karen Jane. She was fitted for long distance charters and in 1974 returned from the wreck of the famous Flying Enterprise, lying 43 miles from Falmouth, with a catch of ling and conger that made a staggering aggregate of 4,595lb. The top fish in the haul, made by a member of the London based Britannia SAC, was a conger of 102½lb - the very first 'ton-up' eel which was caught by Ron Thompson who had sent down a baited pirk. The trip was a four-tider – not unusual for Williams' charters.





Derek Runnals with the 456lb porbeagle that, but for the delay in weighing, would have been the British record in 1977



Andrew Pascoe and his 66lb 12oz big eyed tuna being pictured by Mike Millman at the Marine Biological Laboratory



Colin Williams on Cecilie Laura



This Cornish conger is not far off the weight of Thompson's record set in 1974

## BLUES & PORGIES

On 18 August 1957 Hetty Eathorne caught a porbeagle shark of 271lb from her own boat out of Looe. The fish was accorded the World All Tackle Mens and Womens record by the International Game Fish Association. It was not until 1970 that she lost it to Britain's Patricia Smith who took her 369lb porgie off Looe on 20 July 1970.

On the 14 August 1969 Paula Everington, fishing near the Isle of Wight, set a world 30lb-class Line Class record with a porbeagle weighing 222lb 8oz and in 1981 Maria Potier clinched the world 80lb class record for a fish of 236lb off Padstow. The Cornish catches were part of a great association with the species that would last until the late 1990s.



Paul Rahill's blue shark weighed 216½lb. It could well have broken the record standing just 1½lb heavier if the boat had returned to harbour and the scales sooner





Most of the really big porbeagle were captured within a mile or so of Cornwall's Atlantic coast, many not far from Crackington Haven, an hour-and-a-half run from Padstow and its neighbour across the estuary, Rock. Fine catches were also made a little further up the coast in the Hartland Point area. 1976 was a great year for massive fish, topped by the 465lb specimen by London-based Jorge Potier. He took it off Crackington Haven. But for a 24 hour delay in weighing the record would have passed out of Potier's hands in 1977 when Cornishman Derek Runnals took a fish off Crackington that weighed 456lb.

The slung tarpaulin used to contain it until I brought the scales from Looe the following morning held 30lb of liquid, so the fish was certainly over 480lb when caught. The top boats for all these catches were Lady Jayne skippered by Ray Provis and Betty V by Tint Winter-Taylor.



Colin Williams

**Marmion Garnsey and his 29lb record turbot from 1964 – as featured in part one in the previous issue**



The blue shark record has been 218lb since 1959, taken by Nigel Sutcliffe from Lady Betty then skippered by Abbie Dingle. So many blue shark were taken by visitors to Looe who were encouraged to fish for the 'monsters of the deep'.

In 1990 I had a call from Mevagissey's Bernard Hunkin who by this time had paid off Eileen and was only running occasional trips, more for his own pleasure than anything else, using a boat called Okay. Paul Rahills, a holiday visitor, was aboard the

boat and within an hour or so had taken a blue shark that looked to be a contender for the long-standing record. I made the trip to Mevagissey from Plymouth and was there when the boat returned to port. The fish was weighed at the Shark Angling Centre on the main quay and was pronounced to be 216½lb making it the second heaviest in British blue shark history. Had he returned to Mevagissey when the fish was caught, rather than the five hours later, it may well have displaced the Sutcliffe fish. ■



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# FIVE TIMES TON-UP

**With the chance of bagging a UK bluefin tuna Dave Lewis realised his catch tally of UK species over 100lb could go to five – but would he get lucky on the day?**

**C**atching a fish in excess of 100lb from British waters is a goal many sea anglers strive to achieve during their lifetime. Catching two or three different species of fish over 100lb in the waters around the UK is something very few anglers will ever succeed in doing. Many would think that increasing this to four species is nigh on impossible. Yet in 2011 this is exactly what Welsh specialist sea angler Mark Nelson achieved.

In reaching his goal Mark had achieved an exceptional feat of angling, something that very few anglers would emulate in a lifetime, let alone a single year. Mark's tally included blue and porbeagle shark, common skate and, most impressively of all, conger. At the time catching four species over 100lb caught strictly in the UK, which means fish caught aboard a boat that both sailed and returned to a UK port without stopping elsewhere, was a goal that I never personally thought I'd ever achieve, let alone beat.

In 2011 I'd caught both blue and porbeagle sharks, and a common skate over 100lb, but setting out a fourth species was going to be a tough call. You could spend a lifetime fishing offshore wrecks with the very best South Coast skippers and never get a sniff of a 100lb eel; so targeting one of these was not a realistic goal. A thresher shark would have been a slightly





## FEEDING FRENZY

On the short run to the fishing grounds, which were surprisingly close to shore, Aaron told us all about the truly amazing fishing he and his crews had been experiencing. "There are loads of tuna down here, hundreds of them. You're going to catch one, just as soon as we find feeding birds!" And sure enough after running maybe another mile or two we spotted a huge mixed flock of gulls, and most importantly Manx shearwaters that are a firm indication that there are tuna in the vicinity. Minutes later the birds became visibly excited and started dipping and diving to pluck hapless baitfish that were being held against the surface by predators beneath. Then we saw them: bluefin tuna, big fat fish jumping out of the water amongst the birds, landing with a monumental splash. Another feeding frenzy was taking place perhaps a quarter of a mile ahead of us and looking back we could see even more astern of us. Aaron had not been exaggerating, there were hundreds of them! ▶

more realistic option, but again I'd have to either be both committed and extremely lucky and prepared to spend a lot of time and money I do not have. In 2011 bluefin tuna were being regularly caught in Ireland, along with some monster six gill sharks, but that is a separate country. Were I to fish for and count either of those species, then I might as well count the 200lb mako shark I caught in Kenya!

The only other 'possible' species would be mako shark, white skate or a halibut but, of course, setting out to catch any of these in the UK would be a very, very long shot. Funny then, that a few weeks ago I released my fifth UK species over 100lb.

## HAPPY DAYS

It began with a phone call from Aaron Lidstone, skipper of Plymouth based charter boat Happy Days. Aaron, one of the 25 skippers fishing in the 2022 CHART program, is legally allowed to target bluefin tuna following a strict protocol and, of course, on a catch and release basis. He'd been doing very well, he informed me; his crews successfully tagging several bluefin pretty much every day they had fished. One of his crews had cancelled at short notice, would I like to jump aboard and try to catch my first UK bluefin tuna?

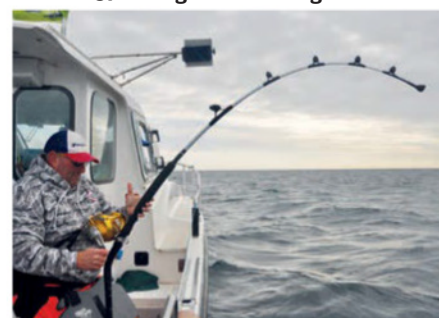
Regular readers of this magazine will know that I often fish aboard another Happy Days, a private boat jointly owned by my good friends Andy Samuel and Glyn Pressley. Their Happy Days, which was once owned by Aaron, is usually berthed at Cardiff Bay, but currently she was relocated at Plymouth all but alongside Aaron's Happy Days. I was invited to be the fourth member of a crew consisting of Andy, Glyn and another friend, Tyrone Covell, and as we made our way out into Plymouth Sound Aaron informed us that his goal was to have each of us release a tuna before we returned to port.



Dave's fish alongside



Dave's 237lb six gill shark caught in 2018



Glyn Pressley gets in on the action too

The length to weight conversion scale used for bluefins



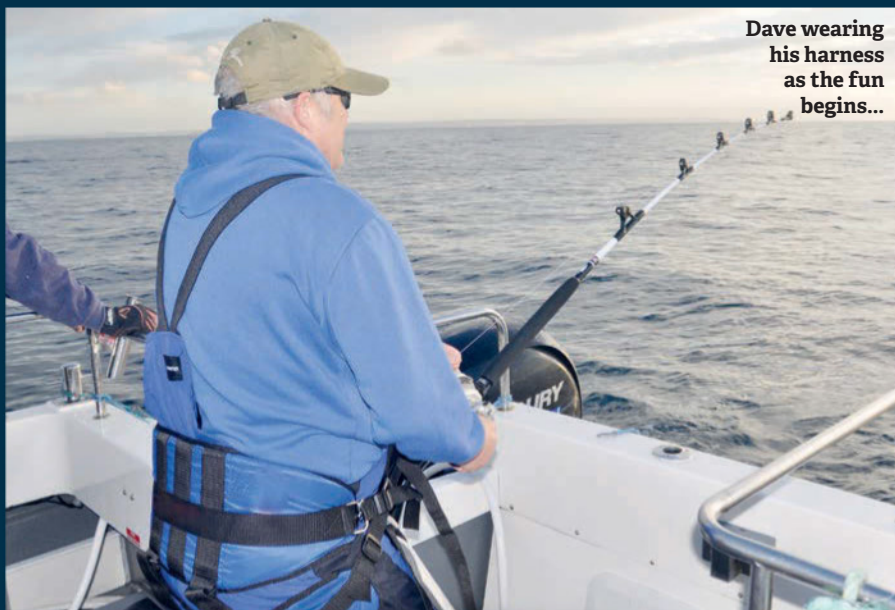


When it came to experience catching bluefin tuna in the UK, I was the rookie! Previously I'd caught plenty of bluefin fishing in both Spain and France, including several weighing up to 300lb. However, unlike the other lads I'd yet to catch one in the UK. Partly because they are 'decent chaps', and partly because they would have liked nothing better than to see me make a hash of things, it had been decided that I would take the first strike of the day. In anticipation of this I'd already spent a few minutes making sure that the stand-up harness fitted me perfectly, and was wearing it in readiness of a strike.

## SCREAMING REEL

I suppose we had been trolling for around 10 minutes when a rod buckled over and the ratchet screamed, fish on. Trying to remain cool and calm I lifted the rod out of the holder in the gunwale, secured the bent butt into the socket on the thigh pad, attached the twin harness straps to the reel lugs, and eased the lever drag forward to the strike position.

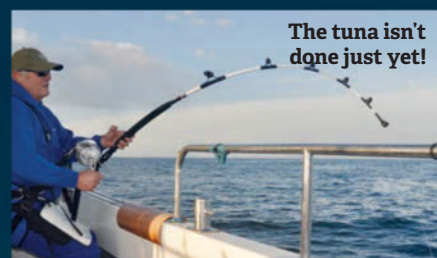
I'd like to say that what ensued was a long and dramatic fight at the end of which years of angling experience came to the fore and I got my fish, but that would not be true. The real story is that the fish had been hooked on substantial tackle as required by the CHART programme, the line was not going to break, and given the skill and attention that Aaron had ensured had gone into each and every element of the rig, tackle failure was extremely unlikely.



Dave wearing his harness as the fun begins...



Andy Samuel buckled in for the ride



The tuna isn't done just yet!

**“Previously I'd caught plenty of bluefin fishing in both Spain and France, including several weighing up to 300lb. However, unlike the other lads I'd yet to catch one in the UK”**





What's more the fish had been hooked on a spreader bar, a team of squids with the furthest back, the stinger, being rigged with a hook. Tuna are a very strong pelagic species of fish capable of long runs, and possessing the stamina and power to fight long and hard. But swimming around with a spreader bar certainly takes its toll on the fish, which is actually good as it minimises fight times and ensures that fish are released quickly, in a strong and healthy condition.

Just over 10 minutes after the initial hook up Aaron reached out and grabbed the leader, while one of the crew secured the fish with a jaw grip. Just as promised I'd caught my fish; it had almost been too easy. It was 74in in length, which the weight to length scale determined made it 300lb. It was very fat, in superb condition so I'm calling it 300lb. It might have been a tad heavier, it might have weighed less than 300lb, I couldn't have cared less. What was certain was that I had just caught my fifth 100lb plus fish in the UK.



## JOB DONE

Not long after resuming trolling Tyrone hooked a fish, but unfortunately it threw the hook just as Aaron was about to grab the leader, it happens. Andy and Glyn were happy for Tyrone to have another shot at the next fish, and within the hour he had an estimated 450lb tuna alongside Happy Days. Andy was next with a fish of a similar size to mine, okay most likely a bit heavier, and then Glyn got his tuna, a solid fish that taped out at 250lb. As far as Aaron was concerned it was job done, and with the weather rapidly deteriorating exactly as had been forecast, we called it a day and were back at our berth by four o'clock.

By now some of you are probably asking how I am claiming five 100lb plus species, when I have only listed four? Well, a few years back I was fortunate to have been invited to join an exploratory trip aboard then Plymouth charter boat 'Size Matters'. Following up reports her skipper Kevin McKie had received we steamed over night to fish deep water in the open Atlantic to the west of the Isles of Scilly. We were hoping for blue skate and six gill sharks,

and succeeded in catch both species, boating two skate and six, six gills up to a massive 500lb plus, one of which I caught and we calculated as weighing 237lb.

Mark Nelson, whom we began this story with, is undoubtedly one of the UK's most dedicated big fish anglers. Since 2011 Mark has caught many other incredible fish around the UK coast, including both bluefin tuna and thresher sharks. He can now lay claim to having personally caught an incredible six species in excess of 100lb in the UK. I am not aware of any other angler who has achieved this amazing milestone. ■

**To book a day aboard 'Happy Days' with Aaron Lidstone, either tuna fishing or more traditional wreck, reef and open ground fishing for multitude of species:**  
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# ON OTHER SANDS

**Simon Smith bumps into a fishing pal from his youth for whom the carefree days of their teenage fishing adventures were shattered by war in a foreign land**

"In here?" I shuffled tentatively into the drab little office, my eyes squinting slightly under the harsh strip light. All of 17-years-old, slightly nervous, gangly, with a spotty complexion, I had no clue where I was heading in life and even less of an idea about how to get there. I had, however, recently discovered girls, beer and a reckless ability to chase both at the same time, and quickly came to realise that I would need money to fund it all; a necessity that had landed me in this grey, nondescript corner of a local supermarket.

"Right, I'll be back in a minute," the Assistant Manager muttered, patting himself down in search of a pen. "Just talk amongst yourselves." Ourselves? It was only when I turned around that I noticed another boy in the corner of the room.

"Alright?"

"Alright, mate? I'm David."

Instinctively, I puffed out my chest slightly and squared my shoulders, taking in the figure seated before me. Dave was everything I wasn't – dark haired and blue-eyed; with his wide smile he seemed to ooze confidence. I breathed out: "I'm Simon."

At first our conversation was stilted as we sat there like two foreigners, each unable to relate to the other until, after a short while, our chat somehow turned to hobbies. Within moments we had discovered a common love of fishing which, like a shared second language, suddenly opened lines of communication, and that was it. In that simple, punch-on-the-shoulder familiarity that boys soon develop, I had been introduced to my new best mate. From then

on, whether we were at work or just out and about, we could generally be found together, and when we weren't working, we were fishing, meeting at our local beach to chase the bass, flatfish and whiting.

Time moved on and, as often happens, we chose different paths, mine leading to college and Dave's to full-time work, though this wasn't necessarily a negative thing in itself as Dave now had the means to afford his first car. Now, most weekends would see Dave and I bundled with all our gear into his little red Ford Fiesta, travelling west to the beaches of Gower chasing the bass, or east to the more rugged marks around Monknash when cod season swung around again. Weekend after weekend sped by in a blur of fish as we lived in, and for, each tide-filled moment.

Then, finally, it had to happen. My path had never wavered from the academic, and as I progressed through college with university as my goal, Dave was becoming restless for a proper career of his own – a career in the Army. Whilst I was buried in textbooks, for Dave, basic training and passing out arrived, came and went, meaning that the tides of life carried us off in our own directions and we seldom saw each other. As he pursued his own army career I built mine, graduating, completing teacher training, taking up my first teaching post and then meeting and starting a family with my wife Rachel.

Experience became memory and memory faded into reminiscence; communication with Dave stuttering to the occasional text or email once or twice a year. Then, one day, out

of nowhere, I bumped into him in our local shopping centre.

"Bloody hell! How are you doing mate? What are you up to?"

"Ah, just a bit of shopping. Gotta get ready for the next tour, mate."

"Where's that then?"

"Afghanistan."

That one word was enough to still the air completely. We had all seen the news reports at the time, the stories of young men and women who had gone out to those far-flung war zones and had never returned. We shook hands and went our separate ways once again – me to my safe, pedestrian life, him to danger.

This time, though, was not like the other times. Quietly, I prayed for Dave, for his safe return, becoming more interested in the news, scanning the reports for any news of conditions at Camp Bastion, where he was stationed.

Months later, I was out on the beach during our school's summer activity week with a small group of pupils when I saw Dave arrive on the beach. I had known about his imminent return for a number of weeks after speaking to mutual friends, and had left a message that I would be here if he wanted to catch up.

"Right, let's get you all set up and in the water," I called out to the kids, helping to fit together rods, tie shock leaders and bait hooks, all the while watching Dave slowly setting up and going through the motions of his first casts.

**"Within moments we had discovered a common love of fishing which, like a shared second language, suddenly opened lines of communication"**



After an hour or so, I and a couple of my colleagues wandered over for a chat. As we approached, he didn't appear to notice us until the last second, his faraway stare remaining fixed on the horizon until he seemed to snap to consciousness.

"Hello mate, how are things?" I shook his hand warmly, a half-smile playing across his lips as he responded with a quiet "Alright, mate?" I introduced my colleagues and, after the niceties, stood back like them to listen on as Dave began to unfurl his story, piece by piece.

He was like a man offloading some great burden now, and the narrative poured out with a necessary urgency, as though to stop would rob him of the ability to rid himself of the words, the memories, the images. They seemed to come now of their own accord: the checkpoints, the nervous waiting, the patrol convoys trundling down a dirt track; stopping to investigate any suspicious signs, slowly slithering up to obstructions on bellies and tapping fingertips out in front to find out whether or not it was an IED that blocked the road.

With every word he took us with him through each moment of the last few months, so that we were there as he revisited those packed streets where he needed to remain alert to every slight flicker of movement in case it should be a suicide bomber. As he told us how even now he couldn't stand to spend time in a packed supermarket because of this, I began to conjure up memories and mental images of my own, realising that those packed-out, shoulder-to-shoulder mackerel sessions we had shared on the local breakwater were gone forever.

He continued through the long days, and took us on into the nights when his unit was on patrol, working in total darkness, with nothing to light their way but a small chemical light taped to the back of the helmet of the man in front, wandering through the gloom like nervous fireflies. Those long night fishing sessions, carefully focusing all our attention on the sparsely lit tips of our rods now seemed so very far away.

When looking for something to eat outside the camp, he told us how the soldiers had to find and use go-betweens, as they couldn't even safely use the local vendors, and I recalled again the ease of those long summer evening sessions, our barbecue blazing out on the beach, the smells of sausages and burgers permeating the air into the small hours.

And so he told us his stories through that quiet, sunny afternoon, and we listened as we caught no fish and gently followed the tide up and then back, angling again providing that common line of communication that was so needed, that made discussion possible until it was all said and Dave was finally talked out. The time came to take the pupils back to school ready to be picked up by their parents.

"See you soon mate. Take it easy," I said, shaking his hand.

"Yeah, thanks mate. You too." That half-smile returned to his face and quickly disappeared again as I walked off the beach.

I rarely see Dave these days; the last I heard, he had developed a passion for carp on still waters, but even now I am left with that final lingering image of him – staring up at the rod tips pointing out over the sea, looking for bites, for peace, for those imperceptible things he had left out there, perhaps forever, on other sands, 4,000 miles to the east. ■

# SeaAngler Guides



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# THREE IS THE MAGIC NUMBER

Keeping warm and dry – a guide to dressing for comfortable winter fishing

## THE THREE-LAYER PRINCIPLE

Dressing incorrectly in cold weather can cause dampness to occur inside your clothing. This may in turn lead you to being even colder and worse, lead to hypothermia which goes from being a bit uncomfortable to a potentially life-threatening condition.

The three-layer principle is a simple and functional system, where the combination of the various clothing layers ensures optimal comfort. For instance, a breathable jacket provides very little effect if the layers used below are not breathable. There is no point in spending hundreds of pounds on buying a good jacket if you omit to buy the corresponding functional base and middle layers. The objective with the three-layer principle is to create a system that keeps you warm and dry, even under the most demanding weather conditions.

The three essential layers are:

**1** Tight-fitting, perspiration transporting Base Layer

**2** Middle Layers, determined by activity level and requirements for insulation

**3** Waterproof Outer Layer to protect you against wind, rain, hail or snow





1

## BASE LAYER (UNDERWEAR)

The most important function of your base layer is to facilitate the wicking of excess moisture away from your body, ensuring that you don't get wet and cold. Merino-wool is the most popular material used for this as it has a natural ability to regulate temperature, making sure that your skin doesn't get cold.

The wool warms and releases energy regardless of whether it is moist or dry. The ability to regulate body heat makes merino wool the obvious choice for year-round use: it's warm in winter yet cool in the summer.

When using merino wool, it's wise to wash it as little as possible, this preserves the natural lanolin in the wool and extends the lifetime of the fabric greatly. Instead hang the clothes out in fresh air, especially if the temperatures are below zero.

Merino wool is a natural fibre and being thinner and softer than regular wool makes it easy to wear against the skin. Its fibres are inherently porous being composed of little plates that moisture vapour can get in between to wick away from your skin.



2

## MIDDLE LAYER (INSULATION)

The function of the middle layer is to ensure that you keep warm. The middle layers can be changed depending on your activity level and requirements for insulation; so it fits your demands. Fleece is the most commonly used material as the structure of the fabric traps a lot of air between the fibres - and it is this air that creates the heat. Fleece has that ability to soak up and transport excess perspiration and dries very fast.

Fleeces are mostly manufactured of polyester, often produced from reused plastic packaging. The difference between a good fleece and a bad fleece is first and foremost how much air it can bind within the material, and thereby how warm it is. On top of this a good quality fleece has much higher abrasion resistance than those of lesser quality.

Polartec® is the leading manufacturer of fleece material on the market, well known for its high quality, ensuring maximum heat retention and breathability.



3

## OUTER LAYER (WATERPROOFING)

The outer layer's function is to protect you against the elements - be it wind, rain, hail or snow. It's very important to understand that a breathable fabric is only capable of "breathing" vapour - not perspiration in fluid form. If you experience condensation on the inner side of the outer layer, it can feel like the outer layer is not waterproof - but the problem can often be solved with the right base and middle layers. Cotton is not suitable to use in any of the layers because it retains moisture, especially when used in combination with fleece. Correct use of base and middle layers is crucial to optimize the full functionality of the outer layer.

Follow this advice by sticking to the three-layer principle and you'll soon appreciate the importance of layering and wearing the correct fabrics and materials. Not only will it keep you warm and dry but it will keep you happier and more focused on fishing for longer, and in comfort. Check out the range of layers available from manufacturers such as Geoff Anderson, Vass, Titan, IMAX, Guy Cotten and Shimano, amongst others.







# GNARLY NEWQUAY!

Best known for being the UK's surfing capital, not to mention one of the most popular tourist towns in the South-West, this north Cornwall town between Padstow and St Ives offers some rich and radical fishing opportunities

**W**ith easy access via greatly improved roads, a huge selection of accommodation options to suit all tastes and budgets, countless places to choose from to eat and drink and many top tourist attractions within a short drive, Newquay really is the perfect destination for either a designated fishing trip, or a family holiday into which you can include a few days fishing.

## CHARTER OPTIONS

You'll find numerous fishing boats moored within the town's quaint little harbour, but as you would expect in high summer the majority of these focus primarily on short duration mackerel type trips aimed at the occasional rather than serious sea angler. These trips, which really are ideal taster sessions for children, can be booked at numerous kiosks at the harbour. Many of the charter boats based at Newquay can also be booked for longer duration or even full day fishing charters, offering a great opportunity to experience the excellent sea angling that is available for a wide variety of different species.

## MARKS & SPECIES

Several systems of reefs are located just a short run offshore, and these are very popular fishing venues for fishing both at anchor and on the drift. Depending on the time of year, fishing these reefs you can expect to catch plenty of pollack, codling, bream-black, red and couches, ling, conger, huss, wrasse, gurnard and many other species. Fishing the open and mixed ground off Newquay can also be very productive and you can expect to catch rays, dogfish and various species of flatfish. During the early part of the summer charter boats focus on excellent tope fishing, which typically produces dozens of fish per day. And if that were not enough, offshore there are hundreds





of wrecks located within relatively close proximity to the harbour, and a day fishing these can provide consistent sport with pollack, cod, ling, conger and coalfish. Large squid can be very prolific during autumn and winter, and increasingly British sea anglers are targeting these tasty cephalopods!

During the latter part of the winter and early spring the inshore waters off the coast of North Cornwall are one of the very best areas to catch huge porbeagle shark. In recent years numerous very large sharks including specimens estimated as being in excess of 400 or even 500lb have been caught and released in this area. Fish estimated as being in excess of the current world record, which is 507lb, have certainly been caught and released off the north Cornwall coast. Fishing further offshore in deeper water during the summer months, the blue shark fishing is excellent. ■



Pollock caught at Newquay



Plenty of charter booking choices



A ling comes to the net

## NEED TO KNOW

### CHARTER BOATS:

- Atlantic Diver and Atlantic Explorer  
Tel: 01637 850930  
Mobile: 07860 927833
- Che Sara Sara:  
07836 335903 or 01637 871886
- Bootlegger Boat Trips  
Tel: 07792 938729
- Atlantis Tel: 07811 017313
- Mystique Tel: 07507 366461
- Newquay Sea Safaris and Fishing  
Tel: 07582 466122



- Newquay Harbour Office, South Quay, Newquay, Cornwall, TR7 1HR  
Harbour Master: Tel 01637 872809  
newquayharbour@cornwall.gov.uk  
www.cornwallharbours.co.uk/our-harbours/newquay/
- Private boats can be launched directly into Newquay Harbour, but contact the Harbour Master in advance for launch times, as this is a tidal harbour. Cost to launch £10, £6 to park trailer.

### TACKLE SHOP:

- Sling Your Hook: 5a Beach Parade, Beach Road, Newquay TR7 1ET  
Tel: 01637 852101

You'll find many accommodation options in and around Newquay.







# BRINGING BACK BRITISH COD **REALLY?**

David Mitchell looks into British anglers' obsession with cod and asks whether it's finally time to accept – for most of us – they've gone, and move on

## HALCYON DAYS

The ancient Greeks believed 14 days of calm seas over the winter solstice would occur when the halcyon, a mythical Greek bird, was nesting on the seas of the Aegean. Over the centuries the phrase 'halcyon days' has gone from meaning a period of calmness to a time of nostalgia.

In fact, for many sea anglers of a certain vintage, their halcyon days are still very much associated with the depths of winter when *Gadus morhua*, the Atlantic cod, would appear in vast numbers along the east coast of England.

Cod were, and still are, a top target for anglers up and down the North Sea coast of England from Northumberland right down to Kent, past the mark of cod angling legend that was Dungeness, and west into the English Channel.

Epic tales of catches were reported and the sea angling scene only really came alive in large parts of the country when the mercury dropped and the cod 'were in', charter boats were (literally) packed to the gunnels and

beaches were lit up for miles with tilly lamps twinkling in the winter night. However, many anglers of the same vintage might not be aware they were fishing in the midst of a phenomenon, a set of unique circumstances, a freak occurrence.

## THE OUTBURST

Between 1966 and the early 1970s North Sea stocks of the gadoid family – predominantly cod and haddock – exploded in an event which became to be known as the 'Gadoid outburst'. A number of exceptionally strong year classes of gadoid species were spawned in an event which has never been repeated and to this day remains largely unexplained; although it has been attributed to the huge abundance of *Calanus finmarchicus*, a small crustacean and a crucial prey species for early life stages of cod.

The outburst expanded both the stock and the range of cod as competition for prey intensified

resulting in a series of years of exceptionally good cod fishing from boat and shore along much of the east coast. By the mid-1970s the North Sea cod stock had reached a staggering 266,000 tonnes.

At the same time, the outburst led to a huge increase in commercial fishing vessels being built to make hay while the gadoid sun was shining. This eventually resulted in overcapacity in the fishing fleet (too many boats chasing too few fish, and something we are still dealing with over 40 years later) and the decline in cod leading to the eventual crash in the North Sea cod stock to just 50,000 tonnes in the mid-2000s. Overall there has been a nearly 60 per cent decline in the North Sea cod stock since 1963.

## RECOVERY

However, thanks to successful management measures introduced by the EU (that's a phrase you don't often hear) North Sea cod stocks began to recover and were being fished at





sustainable levels until a few years ago (albeit at a tiny fraction of the total biomass of cod from the good old days). Predictably, the upturn prompted the policy makers to open the fishery up again and the stock has since declined again below sustainable levels.

Angling catches in Yorkshire, Northumberland and along the Scottish coast remain relatively strong. Next month the famous Amble Open will take place drawing hundreds of anglers to Northumberland where, without a doubt, some good catches of plump codling will be made.

What about further south in East Anglia and the South East where winter cod was once the backbone of sea angling? In the southern North Sea it is a very different story indeed. Over recent years cod have virtually disappeared. Many anglers have now gone years without having caught or seen a cod, or a 'unicorn' as these mythical creates are now referred to as. Charter skippers are now turning away cod fishing bookings because they know they can't find any for their customers.

## WHY?

For a start, it's a multi-dimensional issue and there is no single or straightforward answer.

No one can tell us for certain but one of the main suspects appears to be warming sea temperature and changing currents within the North Sea. The whole of the North Sea is warming but the southern North Sea is warming at a quicker rate than the north.

The warmer water creates unfavourable conditions for the *Calanus* crustacean species on which larval and juvenile cod feed. The absence of *Calanus* in the south have resulted in poor survival of young cod while in the cooler northern waters, where *Calanus* abundance is still high, survival has improved and stocks have rebounded from the historic low in the mid-2000s with catches improving year on year. It is also likely that the northern stock has been swelled with cod from the south being pushed further north in search of better *Calanus* hunting grounds. The second culprit is, of

course, commercial overfishing. However, even during the depths of overfishing in the early 2000s there were still cod to be caught from boat and shore around the southern North Sea coast of the UK, which is why, in my opinion, the change in sea temperature is a much more convincing explanation for the disappearance of cod.

Ultimately, stock of adult spawning fish has been massively overfished, and of the remaining mature fish that survive and venture into the warm water of the southern North Sea they produce eggs and larval fish that starve to death without their favoured crustacean diet.

There's also evidence to suggest that North Sea cod have subpopulations which inhabit different regions. If these subpopulations don't mix, then repopulating areas which have been depleted could take a long time, if at all. However, cod produce so many millions of eggs that only a small number of spawning fish are needed to rebuild a stock if the conditions are right – suggesting sea temperature and the lack of food for juveniles is, again, the culprit. ■

## “PARTICULARLY POINTLESS” PETITION

You may be aware of a campaign and petition by the Blue Marine Foundation to 'Bring Back British Cod' (whatever this means – cod stocks are wide-ranging migrating fish which are, and always have been, shared between the UK and a number of other countries). On the face of it things look pretty bleak for any return of cod to the southern North Sea. Sea temperatures are predicted to continue increasing making even less favourable conditions for young cods' favourite meal. If the adult stock has been fished out and the few juvenile fish that not yet spawned have nothing to feed on then I'm afraid I struggle to see how any recovery in the southern North Sea can happen.

The campaign is asking policy makers to set catch limits at sustainable limits using the advice they receive from scientists. Goodness knows how many organisations over the years have campaigned for exactly the same thing, most of which are scuppered by the politics involved. I see no reason why this should be any different, despite the naïve campaign poster waving photos opportunities by politicians who I imagine have no idea of the detail or the opposition they are about to encounter.

However, in the interests of balance, assuming they are successful in their objective I'm still not convinced this will have any real benefit for anglers or small-scale commercial fishermen south of the Yorkshire coastline. Why? Any uplift in cod populations is likely to be further north where the sea temperature and prey species are more favourable and where cod stocks have been doing well in recent years. Scientists predict that the distribution of cod in UK waters is moving north by approximately 12km per year, most likely as a result of increasing sea

temperatures; something that prompted a spokesperson from the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations to describe the campaign and petition as “particularly pointless”, and while I'm loathed to, I can't help but agree with him. So, while the 'North Sea' cod stock might grow it's the fisherman in the Faroe Islands or Norway who may benefit, not the angler on an East Anglian or Kent beach on a cold winter's night.

No doubt social media will continue to feature reports of occasional catches that appear to suggest otherwise but ask yourself how many attempts and hours may have been taken by the expert (or simply lucky) angler in question in their quest to catch the single codling in the picture.

Then multiply that by the thousands of anglers fishing hundreds of hours a year (or the catch per unit of effort) who fail to catch their own unicorn and it's fairly easy to see how the odd catch reported on Facebook can give you a wildly inaccurate picture of what's actually being caught.

'Bring Back British Cod' therefore doesn't look like it will do much, if anything, for the UK sea angling scene in the highly unlikely scenario that it achieves what it intends to. That being said, good luck to them. It doesn't mean it's not something that, in principle at least, we should all support. It's a catchy campaign slogan but, as always, the devil is in the detail.

Perhaps rather than harking back to the halcyon days of yesteryear it's finally time to embrace the opportunity that change brings with it and the arrival of warmer water species which will fill the gap left by the absence of cod. After all, returning to ancient Greece, as the philosopher Heraclitus put it, 'there is nothing permanent except change'.





Go big or  
go home!



Deep water  
shads can weigh  
over 16oz

# THE BIGGER THE BETTER

Ditch the old fashioned metal jigs and pirks, it's 2023! For big fish on lures it's all about super-sized soft plastic shads, as Dave Lewis explains





**W**hen fishing for big fish at deep water destinations such as Iceland and Norway, for many years I only ever used metal jigs. Certainly metal jigs, or pirks as they are widely known, are highly effective, though fishing them correctly is a very physical form of angling. You have to continually work these lures in order to impart the necessary action required, and convince the fish your lure is something tasty to eat and not simply a cold piece of painted lead. Further, almost all designs of metal jig work most efficiently when jigged in as near to a vertical line beneath the boat as possible, and when working deep water with anything other than the slowest of drifts this invariably means lots of reeling up as soon as the lure starts to angle away from the vertical.

I don't think I have actually used a metal jig at either of these destinations for the better part of a decade. These days I almost exclusively fish using large weighted soft plastic shads such as the Westin Crazy Daisy and Big Bob, or the now sadly discontinued Storm Wildeye Giant Jigging Shad. These larger jigging shads typically weigh in excess of 16oz, and they can be 12 inches or more in length. Smaller weighted shads such as Storm Ultra Shads and the many other similar lures produced by various manufacturers around 6-8in in length and weighing in the region 4-6oz, can also be hugely effective lures.

I fish the heavier shads using a 20-30lb class boat rod matched with a Shimano Torium 16 or 20 high speed retrieve reel, which makes retrieving lures from deep water as easy as possible. The reel is loaded with around 30-40lb PowerPro terminating in a 20ft clear monofilament shock leader of around 80lb. The larger lures are each fitted with a short 2-3ft 'tail' cut from around 150-200lb monofilament, which is attached to the end of the leader via a very strong swivel. The purpose of this heavy 'tail' is to resist abrasion and cuts caught by the teeth of species such as halibut, ling and wolffish. The smaller shads are fished on a medium heavy action spinning rod matched with a 5000 size spinning reel such as the excellent Shimano Saragosa, which I load with 20lb PowerPro terminating in a 12ft leader of clear 30lb monofilament.

In very deep water scenarios I don't think the colour of lure makes a lot of difference, unless the fish are feeding closer to the surface. When this is the case using a lure that closely replicates a bait fish in both colour and perhaps most importantly size, will offer an advantage. In deeper water it is how the lure is fished rather than its colour, which is the deciding factor as to whether a fish chooses to eat or ignore it.

Fishing big shads is very straightforward. Start by dropping the lure all of the way down to the bottom. When it reaches the seabed bounce it around for a minute or so while slowly retrieving 12-20ft of line, before dropping it back down to regain bottom contact and repeating the process.

If nothing hits start a steady retrieve, working the lure up through the entire water column. This causes the lure's rubber tail to vibrate enticingly, and it is this natural action that most soft plastic lures have that is key to the success of these lures.

I fish the smaller shads by casting them down drift, that is in the direction in which the boat is



**This wolffish took a giant shad in Norway**

drifting. This allows the lighter lure to sink as fast as possible down through the water column as the drifting boat catches up, thus preventing it from being an excessively long distance away by the time it does make bottom contact. When fishing smaller lures some species, such as coalfish, respond best to a faster retrieve, but always experimenting with various speeds of retrieve will show you what works best on the day.

There are several advantages that rubber shads have over metal jigs. Firstly, when using the larger size lures you are going to catch a lot less smaller fish, as these simply cannot fit the big lures in their mouth. Secondly, whereas jigging often results in fish being foul hooked, when using shads almost every fish you catch will be cleanly hooked in the mouth, which of course is preferable when you intend to release fish. Finally, when a fish bites a metal jig it immediately realises it is not real, but when they grab at a rubber shad most will remain interested for surprisingly long distances, before finally eating it.

Fish can hit your lure at any stage of the retrieve, right up to the surface. Big coalfish frequently feed on the surface, and on numerous occasions I have clearly seen 30lb plus cod inhale a lure just below the boat. On one or two occasions I have even watched halibut follow and then inhale a big lure. Consequently it is essential to work the entire water column, to identify at which depth most fish are feeding. Failing to do this and concentrating on fishing on or very to the bottom is perhaps the single biggest reason why some anglers struggle to catch fish at these destinations. Colour coded braided lines are a big bonus when fish are holding at a specific depth, as once you have established the key depth you can drop the lure straight back down into and keep it working within the most productive zone.

Bites range from a solid slam that stops the lure dead in its tracks, to a delicate plucking as the fish pulls away at the lure's tail. In either case, never strike. Keeping winding at exactly the same rate of retrieve, as any change in the lure's speed or action will almost always result in the fish losing interest. Keep winding until everything goes tight, then set the hook by firmly lifting the rod.

As already mentioned when fishing metal jigs it is important to maintain as near to a vertical line as possible, but when fishing a shad maintaining a vertical line is really not essential. The design of the lure ensures they swim perfectly regardless of the angle of your line, and the fact that most shads are rigged with a single up-facing hook means the chances of a lure snagging bottom, even if it is trailing many yards behind the boat, are minimal. ■





## SPECIMENS SPARCE IN ALDERNEY

There were fewer specimen fish entries than in previous years, but the Alderney Angling Festival proved once again it was the highlight of the Channel Island sea fishing year

**T**here were plenty of small fish like bream and garfish caught by the 70-odd anglers from the UK, Jersey and Guernsey including 21 locals who all took the week off work to fish an average of 16 hours a day. There was a general lack of mackerel about; large tuna seen feeding and jumping daily near the end of the 910m breakwater were thought to be the cause.

"Although the really big specimens were thin on the ground," said the top UK angler Derek Spear from Bristol, "it isn't just about the long hours we spend on the rocks, beaches and breakwater. It means that we can meet up with guys from the island we have known and fished with on Alderney for 20 years or more. We have a kind of annual reunion and sea fishing is a bond which brings us back year after year."

Derek caught the best lesser spotted dogfish of 2lb 2oz 2dr, a specimen small-eyed ray of 11lb and a second place Couch's bream of 1lb 12oz 2dr to win the top UK angler trophy.



Alderney angler James Clarke and his prize-winning 6lb 2oz 2dr bass







**Derek Kane from Jersey was determined to uphold the honour of the 'Jocks' and weighed in this top-placed plump mackerel at 11lb 2oz 2dr**



**Guernsey stonemason Glen Cortez with a garfish of 11lb 10z 14dr**

Alderney angler Darren Braby's 49lb tope, taken on a south cliffs mark, took both the 'Fish of the Festival' and the 'Best Fish over 5lb' prizes. For the first time in years no conger eels over the qualifying weight came in.

Guernsey plumber Andy Loveridge from St Saviour helped his team "The Real Deal" to top spot, personally winning the award for the 'Best Veteran', 'Best Channel Island Angler' and a member of the 'Best Pair'. Andy was second to Jersey specialist Steve Mullin's prize-winning thick-lipped grey mullet of 4lb 14oz 2dr with a specimen of 4lb 9oz 4dr. He also had a tope of 39lb and weighed in a dogfish of 11lb 15oz 10oz.

Local angler Steve Cosheril won the award for the biggest fish returned alive, which was a tope of 41lb 8oz which was weighed and released into the harbour within 15 minutes of being caught from the breakwater. The prize for the biggest ballan wrasse went to Colin Patch with a fish of 6lb 15oz 12dr, which again was released alive.



**Top Guernsey angler Andy ('Mouse') Loveridge with his second-placed thick lipped grey mullet of 4lb 9oz 4dr caught on bread**

Thanks to the tireless efforts of committee members Tracey and James Clarke, assisted by Dickie Smith and treasurer and festival co-founder Alison Crawford, there were four weigh-in sessions at the Alderney Shipping container 'office' on Braye and gradually the leaderboard began to fill slowly as the week progressed. James Clarke managed to collect the prize for the best bass of the festival with a beautiful 6lb 2oz 2dr fish, which he caught early in the week when he and Dickie managed a couple of hours between weigh-ins on a rock mark in the east.

The festival specimen system aims to be environmentally-friendly so only fish above the benchmark weights on the board (and published daily on Facebook) are brought to the scales. All other fish below those weights are released alive. Any fish that don't survive and cannot be released after weighing are carefully filleted and delivered to residents and pensioners across the island, so nothing is wasted.

In one particularly generous gesture, Jersey professional skipper donated his four 5lb bass, caught on rocks at Clonque, to the Connaught Care Home and all the residents shared the three kilos of fillets for a special dinner.

The biggest fish was 5lb 3oz 6dr, winning Jason a cheque for £150 which he handed back and donated to the five young anglers who took part during half-term. As a result, they each walked away with £30 in cash. All the youngsters were given awards sponsored by Alderney Ferry Services and the top junior was local lad Lewis Collings, aged 12, who caught more species than virtually any of the adult competitors.

Overall, competitors said the number of

really big specimens has declined along the whole English Channel due to a combination of overfishing of baitfish down the food chain, like mackerel which have been comparatively scarce all year, and also climate change warming the inshore seas forcing fish to move into colder, deeper water.

Several large tuna were regularly seen feeding among the garfish shoals just a few hundred metres from the end of the breakwater throughout the festival. Anglers believe that these large predators and the dolphins and seals now seen regularly in Channel Island waters are also driving fish away. Competitors of this year's event were undaunted by all of these factors when, at the prizegiving, the start date of the 2023 festival was announced as Saturday 13 October and the cry went up, "We will be back!". ■



**Waiting for the big one; tope fisherman and the top UK angler Derek Spear stretches out on top of the 910m long Alderney Breakwater**



I WAS quite optimistic last month when I wrote about the whiting season ... but fortunately that optimism seems more than justified. Match and pleasure catches have suddenly soared to the point where beach fishing is suddenly worthwhile again ... for everyone.

Whiting have been of a better average size than last year — without any loss of numbers. Whereas last year lots of fish were barely scraping home the right side of the measuring board the bulk of this winter's fish are sizeable by a couple of inches.

Bimbo Perrin won the Southwold Open with over 16lb, with lots of backing weights of 5lb plus, and I won at Corton with just over 6lb, with more good backing weights. If these aggregates seem nothing very special in themselves realise they are a truly tremendous improvement on the results my local shoreline could manage all through the summer.

Even more encouraging, especially for those who look beyond the whiting for hopeful signs of cod, is that from mid-September the first codling were already making an appearance. Nothing to shout about perhaps, but early signs do suggest that maybe this coming cod season will be better than last.

It doesn't need to be very good to beat that. In my patch the season was pretty abysmal for the average angler but we must not lose sight of the fact that last year's failure wasn't primarily due to any marked shortage of cod in the sea.

The failure was that the fish didn't come inshore in the numbers they were capable of. There were some good cod fishing results elsewhere — no complaints at all from the Geordies and the North Foreland ground, in Kent, also delivered the goods — but for the rest of us it was rather a lean time.

East Anglia must do better this year. So too will the Bristol Channel area (either side of it) and Lancashire and Cumbria too. The latter places have been reinforced with very healthy numbers of codling and the Irish Sea, north or south, seems to have an upsurge of cod in hand. About time, too, its anglers will say.

But matters are never quite so simple that an increased stock guarantees more fish on the beach. We also need the right weather to make that happen,



Memories are made of this ... but the cod have been slow to show along the shoreline so far this winter.

## CLUES to cod catches

**PETER COULL** looks at the winter season so far and highlights the general rules that will serve you best from the shoreline

combined with the tides so that the fish really want to move inshore into casting range. We can't make them do that. It's up to the weather.

This is the month, make no mistake about that. The period from the middle of November to mid-December is generally the one in which the season either succeeds or fails. This is not necessarily the month for the very biggest of the cod — late December and January are best for those — but this is the time for the biggest number of middleweight fish and for the best aggregate catches. That much is absolutely true of East Anglia and, I suspect, is equally true of most other cod fishing localities.

Having had a long, hot summer, we must now hope that the winter also becomes traditional. That we get some strong to gale easterlies that lower the water temperature, send the crabs packing, colour the sea and then ease sufficiently for us to get at the cod that will have moved in.

If that's a tall order, it is after all only winter come early and cod anglers can't expect the best of the fishing from a sustained Indian summer continuing into winter.

One notable point about the cod season is that history repeats itself. The factors that attracted cod to particular areas one year will be bound to do the same again — to a lesser or greater degree. That is really why the 10

per cent of the nation's cod anglers who are the most capable catch the lion's share.

It's not that they are so very much better as cod anglers, rather that they are experienced enough to make the best of prospects, even limited prospects. They know where and when cod are most likely to make an appearance. They know the form from last year and for seasons before that. Make no mistake, that is a big advantage.

So this season, like all the others, will provide its rewards to the anglers who make the best overall efforts to catch fish. There are a number of important factors and I will list and explain these in what I regard as their order of importance.



Forty years ago and cod stocks across the UK were healthy and growing. **Peter Coull** reflects on the season so far and the rules to make the most of the bounty

### 1. Aim for distance casting

Now I know thousands will shrink at the thought. They're not Neil Mackellow. They can't cast 271 yards, but there is no need for anyone to cast that far to catch fish.

If you can only manage 80 yards, aim to cast 90 yards. More if possible but an extra 10 yards will help. And if you can whop a baited hook out 120 yards, then strive for a few additional yards. They will make a difference.

The shortest and most effective route to achieve that is by reducing the breaking strain and therefore the thickness of your line. Keep your casting leader as strong as ever but reduce your main line by 15 per cent and you will almost certainly get that back in 15 per cent more distance. Your 100 yards becomes 115 yards ... and that will give you extra fish. Not each and every time, but enough times for it to have been worthwhile.

Streamline your terminal tackle. Stick to just one hook when codding since two cuts your distance short. Those extra yards will pay off.

### 2. The bait you use

Regardless of what others may try to tell you, stick rigidly to lugworm on the hook. Black or yellowtail, doesn't matter which, but stick to one or the other.

Later on, when the season gets far advanced, peeler crab becomes the top bait but for the present peeler gives no advantage at all. In fact it is very much second rate to lug in the pre-Christmas period.

Mussel could be the exception ... but only in those areas where there are mussel beds inshore and on to which the cod move to



**The biggest bass taken from the North Sea from Pakefield northward fell to Don Pledger during the Lowestoft Festival while Don was fishing for whiting. It weighed 12lb 14oz.**

feed. But these are only isolated and often largely unknown areas so stick to lug. That won't let you down.

Silver rag is an over-rated cod bait — except under winter match fishing conditions. It can then attract the occasional cod or codling that might have taken someone else's bait. But if you are pleasure fishing and a fair distance from the next angler then nothing is competing for your cod. They will take your lugworm simply because there is no alternative available.

You should, in any case, be fishing where numbers of cod are expected and for that you need a bigish bait giving off a continued

scent. So use a 5/0 hook not necessarily because you need one that size to deal with a big cod but simply because only a 5/0 is big enough to take the amount of bait you want to use.

Stuff the hook with lug. One, even two up the shank and on to the snood, with one or two more on the hook itself, depending on the size of the worms available.

It's better to fish well for short periods than to fish much longer but not so well.

### 3. Check tide and moon

Fish the spring tides for cod, not the neaps, the big tides not the small ones. The biggest tides coincide with the new and full moon. Your diary tells you exactly when. Make use of those dates.

Fish three days or so either side of the new and full moon dates and ignore the others. If, for example, you plan a week's cod fishing, check your diary before making the dates a firm commitment.

A look at my own diary tells me that Sunday, November 20 is the nearest key date to this magazine's publication date. Fish for three days either side of November 20 and you are likely to get the best possible results that are on offer during the month.

I'm not telling you to ignore the November neaps for cod. After all this is the key month of the season, but you are unlikely to catch as many cod in a week's fishing centred on November 13 as on November 20 ... and I'm not superstitious!

Later the difference becomes even more marked so that, in January, say, spring tides are far superior to neaps. You will virtually always do better on strong pulling tides than on the weak ones ... new and full moon times are favourite.

### 4. The state of the sea

Rough seas help codding. The fish come closer inshore to feed. But never fish for cod in surf-topped water. I've caught hundreds of cod in my time but I have only ever had two cod from that sort of sea.

Bass may love surf but cod don't. Remember that and you have saved yourself some wasted effort. The best time of all for cod is when the sea is rough but the waves remain unbroken offshore, breaking only when they hit the beach.

If the sea is too rough due to storm conditions, give up and return 24 hours later when the

wind may have abated. But at all costs walk the beach far enough to ensure that, wherever you stop, you have unbroken sea in front of you. If the sea is breaking offshore your prospects are slimmer by far.

As an interesting exercise, open up the stomach of a cod caught during rough water conditions and I expect you to find a very mixed food intake inside. That cod will have been opportunist feeding, getting whatever happened to prove available.

Yet open up a cod caught during a calm sea and you are very unlikely to find a mixed stomach content. There may be a stomach full of crabs, of shrimps, of small fish, or worms, but not so often will you find some of each.

### 5. Night or daytime fishing?

It's not a case of night time all the time but as a good general rule night fishing is best for most of the time. Under rough water conditions day can be as good as night, even better if the colour is in decline.

But if the sea is placid then the cod will generally remain out of range in daylight, but venture closer in after dark. I don't believe cod necessarily know the difference between night and day but they are primarily nocturnal feeders once they are within close proximity of the beach.

### 6. Set up an efficient base camp

I can't fish in a muddle. I like to organise myself so that I get as much as possible going for me. So first of all make your base camp in the right place.

Rig your light effectively so that it stands high and shines down on you, illuminating as big an area as possible ... and not too far from the sea either.

With the price of lugworms continuing to rise no one can surely afford to limit his effectiveness for want of applied commonsense. I calculate that lugworms have risen by 12 to 15 per cent in 12 months — yet there are no raw material costs involved. A lugworm is still the same worm it was 20 years ago.

For it is the cost of bait that fails to catch you fish that is the biggest single deterrent. I believe more anglers have packed up fishing because of the high price — and sometimes the low quality — of bait than because of poor fishing itself.

Pitch your base camp in the right place — but a shallow gradient beach means moving from time to time.





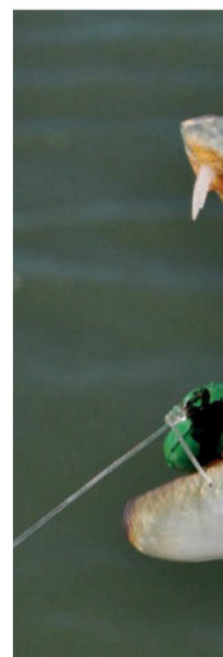
AIR MAIL

# SPOTTED TROUT

Listed in the top 10 recreational species in the USA, the spotted trout is a southern beauty

**S**potted trout, *Cynoscion nebulosus*, also known as speckled trout, are a common estuarine fish found in the southern United States, along the coasts of the Gulf of Mexico and the coastal Atlantic Ocean from

Maryland to Florida. They are often found over shallow, grassy flats, but can be caught in virtually any inshore waters ranging from the surf of outside islands to far up coastal rivers. Contrary to its name, the spotted sea trout is actually from the drum family, *Sciaenidae*. The average







Artificial  
baits are  
very effective



## DESTINATION DEEP SOUTH

Clearly if you want to catch spotted trout your quest will start by booking a flight to America. Self-guided opportunities for trout are available throughout Florida and other southern states, but local information, which is readily available at any tackle shop, should always be sought in advance. I have personally caught spotted trout at several locations along both the Gulf and Atlantic coast of Florida during family holidays, especially the areas around Naples, Marco, Sanibel and Captiva islands and Clearwater.

Try fishing where any of the many passes that drain the Everglades open up onto the beach. Alternatively, try and wade inland to access sheltered lagoons amidst the mangroves. On the east coast the inter-coastal area around the Indian and Banana Rivers near Cape Canaveral is another good area.

You'll find many guides located throughout Florida who'll take you fishing for trout; those based around Everglades City and Naples, along with those in the northern Panhandle section of the state around Panama City, do particularly well. Don't forget to buy a licence if you fish alone!

I have never personally surf fished for spotted trout, but I have read that the various barrier islands located off the Carolinas and Georgia, especially in the vicinity of Ocracoke, along with many of the beaches in Texas, produce plenty of big spotted trout.

The Laguna Madre waterway in Texas is another hugely productive area, which is especially popular with anglers fly fishing, or sight casting using bait. Louisiana is another productive state for spotted trout. Much of the coastline here consists of vast areas of tidal marshland crisscrossed with an endless network of narrow waterways, which contain plenty of big trout. ■

Spotty like a  
trout but it's  
actually a drum



size of spotted trout caught is from 2-6lb, with the current IGFA All-Tackle record held with a fish that weighed 17lb 7oz, caught at Fort Pierce, Florida in 1995.

## TACTICS

You can catch spotted trout on pretty much any angling technique, including fly fishing, but light tackle fishing with baits such as live shrimp mounted on a jig head is deadly. If real baits are unavailable, artificial baits, such as Berkley Gulp! or just soft plastic grubs, are very effective. Fishing for spotted trout is not as challenging as fishing for other species in shallow water; when they are actively feeding they are not nearly as spooky as species such as bonefish. Cast a bait or lure in front of a feeding trout and it'll most likely inhale it. In coloured or deeper water fishing with cut bait, such as chunks of mullet or other bait fish, can be extremely effective. Spotted trout have sharp fang like teeth so a shock tippet of about 40lb hard monofilament or fluorocarbon is essential.



There are plenty  
of guides in  
Florida to take  
you fishing for  
spotted trout



# SEA SCHOOL

Our experts solve your fishing problems



## Q&A

### SHORE ANGLING

#### ASK THE EXPERTS

When sending your question, please remember to include your name and address



**JAMES MADSEN**

Bristol Channel angler James Madsen is here to solve all your shore angling problems.



**DAVE LEWIS**

Based in Newport, South Wales, our contributing editor Dave answers boat fishing questions.



**JOHN HOLDEN**

A Sea Angler contributor for over four decades specialising in casting and rod building.



**HENRY GILBEY**

Angler, blogger and photo-journalist Henry, based in Cornwall, is our lure expert.



**BEN BASSETT**

The Plymouth angler and blogger will provide answers on the sport of light rock fishing (LRF), the go-anywhere tactic.

#### HOW TO ASK US A QUESTION

Email:

[sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk)

or online:

[facebook.com/seaanglermag](https://facebook.com/seaanglermag)

By asking a question you are giving us permission to use your name and where you live in all versions and platforms of this magazine.

**Q Now winter is approaching I find it difficult to cut up frozen bait on the day I'm shore fishing, especially if it's really cold, as my hands just freeze. Can you cut up your frozen bait into the sizes required up to a week before you go and refreeze it before it thaws out?**

Mike Taylor, Somerset

**JM says:** Personally, I wouldn't be a fan of defrosting bait, cutting it up and then refreezing. What you should understand is that most of the bait we buy is not a first generation freeze. In actual fact, some of the frozen bait we buy could already be a third-generation freeze, especially when it comes to baits like squid and Bluey. You see, frozen baits like these often come in much larger blocks from food wholesalers and it then needs to be repackaged by our bait suppliers. Each time a bait is defrosted you will lose quality due to the moisture content being lost. This detrimental process can even take place when bait is only partially defrosted. Of course, some of the best frozen bait we buy can be a first-generation freeze. Take for instance sandeels which can be blast frozen alive and mackerel which can be frozen straight from the sea. It's definitely worth getting hold of the best

quality bait if you are going to defrost it before use. There are also several bait companies now who sell frozen baits already prepared and ready to whip on a hook with baiting elastic. Personally, I'm not a fan of these either, because again the freshness of this bait could have been compromised in the preparation process. If you are really struggling with the cold like you say, one option could be to partly defrost and cut up your bait at home just before you head out for a fishing session. I would only partially defrost if I was you, cut up and then immediately get that bait back on ice in your cool bag. Finally, you have reminded me of a funny story when some lads I know were fishing out in the far north of Norway who had to defrost and bait up their rigs before leaving the accommodation. It was so cold outside the bait wouldn't have even defrosted enough to get a knife through it!

**Q When employing a shockleader, what is the best way to streamline the knot between shockleader and mainline to cut down the effect of the knot smacking every rod ring when casting, potentially shortening my casts when I need all the help I can get?**

Craig Ellis, Wrexham

**JM says:** As it would be very difficult for me to demonstrate a good leader knot to you through this particular forum, I would say that the easiest answer would be for you to try a tapered shockleader. There are a really good variety of tapered shockleaders available. A tapered shockleader should start off as the same thickness as your mainline, so a much smaller leader knot can be achieved. You must consider two things when choosing the correct tapered shockleader for your style of fishing. Firstly, you need to

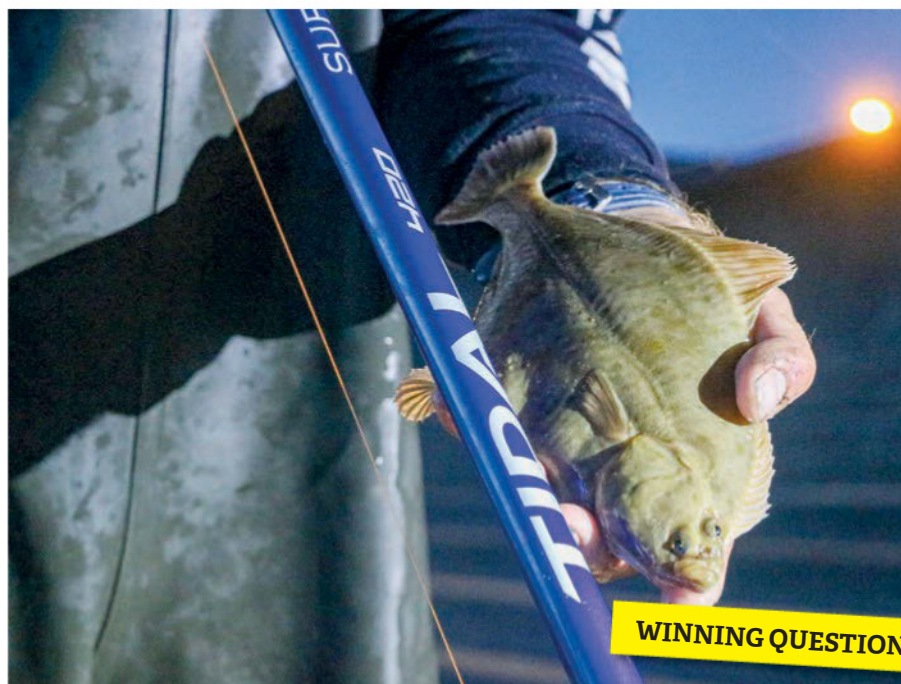
consider what casting weights you are likely to be using. As a rule of thumb, we must allow 10lb or 0.10mm diameter for every ounce of lead we are going to cast. Secondly, you need to marry together your mainline with the start of the tapered shockleader. For example, if you want to use a 15lb (0.35mm) mainline, you will need to find a tapered shockleader which starts off at the same weight. Then I like to tie a back to back three turn grinner or universal knot. This knot, if tied correctly, will be very strong, small and streamlined.



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

**Rapala**

**Sufix**



**Q** On the assumption that there are some fish where I am fishing, how useful will the solunar tables be to me? I believe they show the most active times that fish feed each day by location based on solunar activity.

Peter Barnett, West Sussex

**JM says:** I believe, like with many other things in life, fishing can be as complicated as we want to make it. It's actually really difficult for me to answer this question because there are so many other influencing factors when it comes to such matters. Not to mention, it's a little boring. Nevertheless, there is little doubt that Solunar activity could have both a positive and negative influence on fish activity, especially when it comes to feeding. However, perhaps the real question here should be: how important

is Solunar activity to you and will you only go out fishing if the charts correlate to a particular theory? By all means someone could give it a go. Perhaps they might come up with some amazing new formula and be the next big sea fishing success story. Who knows, we might even be reading it one day in this magazine. Personally, if I want to go fishing, then I just go. Obviously, we give ourselves the best possible chance of success by gaining knowledge on our fishing locations. For me, once I've gained some knowledge, then the weather, particularly the wind strength, can have a big influence on my fishing. Apart from that, if I'm not competition fishing then I'm usually just heading out for some fun and downtime from my busy life. Sometimes we may put an unusually poor session down to adverse weather conditions, air pressure and so on, especially if we were fishing in a particular spot that, perhaps, should have been much more productive. Even so, for most of us that is just one possible explanation for why the fishing could have been so poor. Afterwards we just dust ourselves off and prepare for our next session. Equally, a particularly good session, one which had been much better than expected, could also be explained by a collective of things, weather, moon phases etc. My point here is, does it really matter and should it really have a big influence on your decision to go out fishing?



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T&Cs: \* One prize per winning question will be chosen by the editor. Prizes cannot be exchanged and no correspondence will be looked into. We reserve the right to send alternative prizes.



# SEA SCHOOL

Our experts solve your fishing problems

## Q&A

### BOAT ANGLING

#### WINNING QUESTION

**Q** I understand the purpose of most of the different types of buoys in use around the coast apart from the round yellow ones, which seem to be used at random. What exactly are these for?

PATRICK CARRINGTON, SUFFOLK

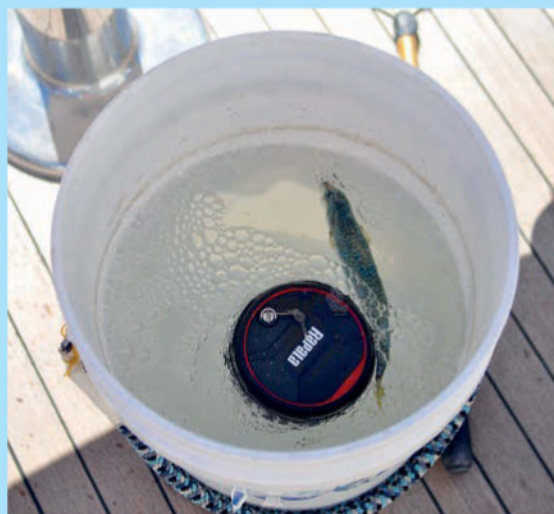
**DL says:** Round yellow buoys are special marks, and as you have noted they are used for a wide variety of different purposes. For example, they may be used to indicate areas set aside as dumping or spoil grounds, the location of sub surface cables or pipelines, firing ranges, a designated anchoring area, along with a wide variety of recreational purposes such as speed restrictions, wake zones and markers for yacht races.



**Q** I rarely use a full packet of frozen sandeels, and often end up throwing good bait away. Refreezing previously defrosted eels results in poor quality bait. Can you offer any advice on storing and using frozen eels?

GLENN DOUGLAS, CUMBRIA

**DL says:** Transport your frozen eels in a wide mouth food flask, then remove and defrost one or two eels at a time. This will ensure that unused eels remain frozen, and in good condition until the next trip.



**Q** I don't want to go to the expense of installing an aerated livebait aboard my boat, plus I don't really have the space for one. Any advice on keeping mackerel alive when fishing?

ANDY BENNETT, BOURNEMOUTH

**DL says:** Try using a portable aerator in a bucket or other container, as shown. These are very effective for keeping a limited supply of bait alive during a day's fishing.



**Q One of my lifejackets got damp aboard the boat and self-inflated. Is it possible to service and repack these, or will I need to send it off to be serviced?**

STEVE MICHAELS, COUNTY DURHAM

**DL says:** Servicing kits consisting of a new CO2 cylinder and actuation device are available for lifejackets. It is very important to use the exact kit for your lifejacket, especially the size of CO2 cylinder. The jacket manufacturer's website will have all details for what are known as rearming kits. When repacking a lifejacket it is important to follow the manufacturer's instructions closely.



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**Q When using live sandeels on circle hooks the eel often slides all the way around the bend of the hook and ends up with the point stuck in the side of the bait, resulting in missed bites. Any advice on presenting live bait on circle hooks to prevent this?**

Roger Macpherson, Yorkshire

**DL says:** Try using a soft rubber bead positioned on the bend of the hook, as shown, to keep the eel in place. You'll find various suitable soft silicon beads in many tackle shops, usually in the carp fishing section.



**Q Is it possible to calculate exactly how much line is out when trolling if using a reel that does not have a line counter?**

JERRY MILLER, HAMPSHIRE

**DL says:** Line counters that clip to the rod, as shown, are available. A Google search will reveal several options and suppliers.





# Q&A

## LURE FISHING

### WINNING QUESTION

#### Q How do I keep my lures dry when I'm fishing?

ALEX MATTHEWS, WILTSHIRE

**HG says:** This is an interesting question because it raises a number of issues. I used to take my lures fishing with me in a few lures boxes which stayed in my rucksack. To change a lure I'd go back to the rucksack, change the lure, keep the lure I had fished with outside of the rucksack in a separate box so it didn't get the dry ones wet with saltwater, before going back to fishing. My rucksack could be a distance away from me - and then I'd want to change my lure again. Yes, it was a pain!

No more though. A few years ago I decided that this way of doing things was a waste of time and I had to find something different. Lures are meant to be used and get wet. I don't worry about this and I would far rather have my lures at my side where I can get to them easily instead of having to go back to my rucksack. My waterproof rucksack with camera gear, car keys and mobile phone in it can be away from me and not on my back all the time, but I need my lures to be easily accessible.

So don't worry about your lures getting wet, indeed I would encourage you to wet your lures as much as possible because it means you're out fishing! I use a simple, drainable lure bag that sits on a belt and a shoulder strap at my side - have a look at

sling-style bags as well, they don't work for me because I carry a rucksack, but plenty of anglers love them - and then in that side-bag are two of the Savage Gear washable lure boxes. I never carry any more lures than can fit in those two boxes. I carry one short-sided and one long-sided box to allow for soft plastics and longer lures and so on, and when I get home I drown the two lure boxes in a sink of freshwater to rinse all the saltwater off the hooks and split

rings. Either leave the boxes to drip-dry somewhere, or otherwise you can take the lures out, open the boxes up and everything will get properly dry.

Note that in my rucksack I am also carrying a few spare weedless hooks or jig heads which I can grab if need be. I don't really want to be getting a load of hooks soaking wet which I am not actually using every time, but again it's all meant to be used and can easily be washed down.





**Q I recently read the Bass Anglers Sportfishing Society's article about circle hooks. My question is if they are so beneficial to the health of the fish why aren't lures fitted with them?**

DAVE BALL, WARWICKSHIRE

**HG says:** Circle hooks are brilliant, but they are designed to work in a very specific way which doesn't tend to suit lures and lure fishing. You don't strike with a circle hook. You let the fish take the bait and then when you deem it the right time you literally put the reel into gear and allow the line to tighten up against the drag - without striking. The theory is that the circle hook moves to where it catches in the side of the mouth due to its rather clever design. It does work and it makes for

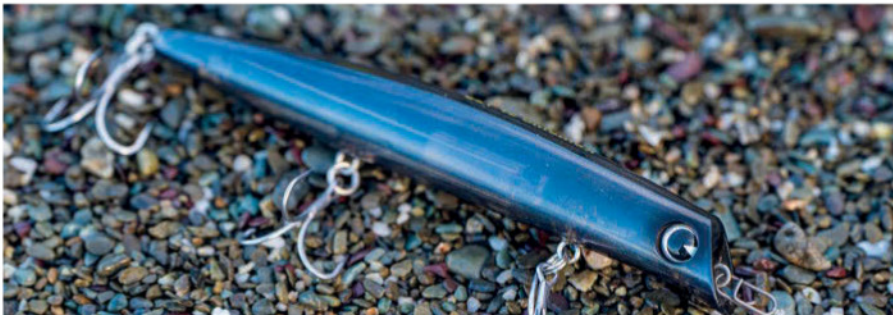
very easy unhooking because you don't end up with deeply hooked fish.

However, with lures we often need to strike, and with the way that fish often hit lures I believe that circle hooks result in far too many missed fish. I can't tell you that I have tried a lot with circle hooks on my lures, but I have tried a lot with single hooks on some of my hard lures. They do work although I have various reservations. Sadly, circle hooks to me don't seem to be a logical choice for lure fishing.



**Q I was told by someone that it is possible to file down the vein on a deep diving lure in order to make the lure dive shallower. I have several deep diving lures which I never use as they go too deep and I worry about them snagging on the bottom. Do you have any advice on this matter?**

HUGH BEECH, WEST MIDLANDS



**HG says:** I too have heard a fair bit about this, so a few years ago I had a go and made a complete hash of it! Bear in mind that my DIY skills are somewhat lacking, but with the sheer amount of amazing shallow-diving hard lures out there I am somewhat reluctant to try and mess with finely tuned vanes or lips on other hard lures which are designed to swim that bit deeper. I am not saying it can't be done



because back in the day there was a lot more lure modification going on due to the lack of choice on the market, but if I were you I'd be far more tempted to go for something like an IMA Kornomo SF-125 or Savage Gear Gravity Shallow which are designed to swim really shallow and also cover a lot of water.

It might also be worth playing with your unused deeper diving lures to see if you can actually use them over shallow ground. Try slowing your retrieve right down, and also lift your rod tip as you wind the lures in. You can really force some of the deeper-diving lures to swim fairly shallow when you fish them like this. It's worth a go.



## Q &amp; A

## LIGHT ROCK FISHING

**Q** I've been fishing for years but started LRF recently. I have had a variety of species so far, but the last few weeks I have struggled to catch in Plymouth with the south-west winds. How can I continue catching in this weather?

SIMON WENGRADT, DEVON

**BB says:** I find I have to really plan ahead at this time of year, I recommend checking the Windy app and look for marks sheltered from that wind direction. Even going further afield, Brixham is often a good shout in a south westerly; but there are corners of Plymouth that are better in those conditions. A popular choice is Commercial Wharf and Sutton Harbour, as you can usually find a sheltered spot. Tactics remain the same but sometimes a heavier Dropshot set up can make things easier for you.



**Q** Have you tried replacing trebles on your hard lures and metals for singles? I'm curious to see if they are still as effective on the lure when targeting scad etc?

ELLIOT HYRYCZ, LONDON

**BB says:** I have swapped over on a lot of my metals; there are some that I keep small trebles on when targeting garfish, to help set the hook in their bony beak. I use inline singles when swapping and normally buy barbless too, this makes unhooking mackerel and bass a lot easier. It is a fine line between what catches and what we can do to minimise damage to the fish when we aren't keeping them. Singles are the simplest way to do it and well worth replacing your trebles with. Scad have very thin skin around the mouth and a treble often doesn't set well, whereas an upturned single goes into the hard skin at the top of the mouth, giving a firmer hook hold.



**Q** I was fishing Mevagissey and spoke to anglers taking part in the Big Lerf Weekender. I was amazed by the amount of different species that can be caught with LRF. I would like to give it a go myself but wouldn't know where to start; it's not really heard of in Essex! I was hoping you could give me some advice, a quick list of what I might need to start for a complete newbie!

ARRON HARRIS, ESSEX

**BB says:** I will try not to overwhelm you with information. Good online tackle shops are Chesil Bait and Tackle or Prime Angling. Rod choice depends on budget – anything from the HTO rockfish UL 1-7g which is about £40, the HTO Aikido 0-6g at about £70. The Majorcraft Solpara rods are a step up and cost more at £100, I would recommend the Solpara Aji 0.6-10g solid tip, any version around 6-7ft. There is also a huge choice above those which get more expensive. You then need a 1000 size reel, a cheaper one by Shimano or Daiwa is ideal, costing around £50-60. Mainline I use Majorcraft Dangan Braid in 6lb or 8lb costing £15 then use 3lb fluorocarbon for leader and a few small jigheads, size 12 hooks, Dropshot weights, a few small metal jigs and a pack of Marukyu Isome or Berkley Gulp worms and you are ready to start.





# THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

Consider the effort versus the reward when it comes to reconditioning or customising old multipliers, says **John Holden**

**A** reader's plan to customise an ancient Daiwa Millionaire 6RM raises interesting points that apply to lots of outdated beach reels. Is it worth fitting ABEC bearings and can the gearing be uprated for faster retrieve? Yes and yes, but do the results repay the effort? It is relatively easy to swap bushes for ball races, but changing the gears calls for precision engineering. The original 3.8:1 ratio matched to Daiwa's decent handle does a fair job anyway. The bog-standard reel is competent in a Morris Minor kind of way, and I'd leave it alone.

Old reels are a mixture of the good, the bad and the ugly. Early Abu Ambassadeur 6000, 7000 and 9000 reels are collectible classics. Messing with them is an expensive mistake because collectors demand a pristine reel complete with tools, spares, instructions and the leather case. Some Penns, including the Squidders along with rarities from Ocean City and Pflueger, appeal to collectors. Even the dreaded Intrepid Sea Streak has its devotees. Another reason not to chop Daiwa 6RMs is that they too are becoming quite sought after, with values on the rise.

The middle ground is the happy hunting ground for fishermen wanting to play with old reels and maybe save a chunk of cash as well. Boot sales and junk shops are awash with tatty reels worth reviving and even customising to a certain extent. Penn Surfmasters are a bullet-proof choice for a first project: cheap, common and easy to work on. The narrow model 100 is a lovely casting and fishing reel, if a tad slow in retrieve. Standard plastic spools are okay if you're careful about line stretch. Find a Surfmaster 100L alloy replacement spool if you can. It is tough and smooth and can be magnetically controlled by a small, rare earth magnet

glued inside the reel's plastic sideplate.

The 6500 enthusiast is spoiled for choice with swarms of venerable Abu 6000C and small Daiwa multipliers reels often going for peanuts. They're easy to fix, surface corrosion usually doesn't matter and the level wind models are easy to convert to CT. Brake block reels can be converted to mag control, and it may be worth uprating the bearings. I found a sad looking Daiwa 7HT for £20 that scrubbed up well and runs as sweet as a nut, a huge saving on new and with years of life left in it. However, it is wrong to imagine that even heavy customising will make an old CT perform as well as today's reels.

The used market is also a treasure trove for bigger reels. Abu 7000Cs, mid-range Penns and Daiwa SLOSH have been around long enough for tremendous

bargains to turn up. They may lack the sophistication of modern reels but they remain splendid fishing tools. Some say that they're better engineered than the latest crop.

Should you come across a Shimano Speedmaster, then you have both a super reel and a challenge. They're fast, pretty tough, excellent for middle weight beach work... and viciously critical of dodgy casting technique. Get it wrong, and a Speedster soon lets you know. ■

Follow all the latest news, catches and photos from Century on [facebook.com/Century.Sea.Fishing](https://www.facebook.com/Century.Sea.Fishing)





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The right-hand wind Firebird multiplier reel comes pre-loaded with 30lb line, a level wind, an easy-to-use star drag, comfortable power handle and is fully resistant to saltwater damage.

This combo is ideal for tackling a wide range of UK saltwater species throughout the year; from summer smoothhounds to winter cod, and all for an unbeatable price that will put fish on the deck and change in your pocket!

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# BOAT STORE

A guide to new products for anglers going afloat

## RESCUE ME!

Ocean Signal Launches the rescueME PLB3 – an award-winning life-saving personal locator beacon (PLB) with AIS and mobile app



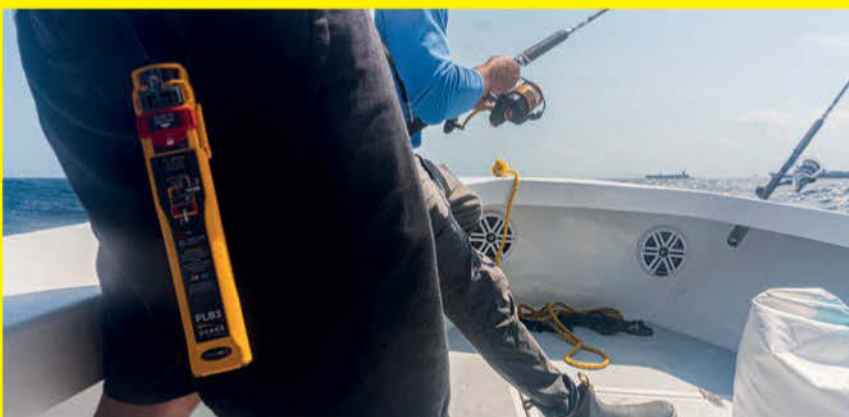
**C**ombining multiple levels of integrated signal technology within a personal locator beacon for the first time, the new Ocean Signal rescueME PLB3 offers boat anglers the most powerful safety solution for rapid rescue in a man overboard (MOB) emergency.

The next generation PLB3 unites two different key systems to provide a survivor with the best chance of quickly alerting others to a distress situation – benefiting from the global response capabilities of the Cospas-Sarsat rescue services, while also using AIS technology to indicate an MOB position to nearby vessels for immediate aid.

Designed for installation within a lifejacket for semi-automatic activation upon inflation, the Ocean Signal PLB3 integrates GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) positioning, 406 MHz, 121.5 MHz signals and AIS transmission, as

well as the new Galileo Return Link Service (RLS) technology, to deliver a comprehensive and complete communication link to emergency services, even if the survivor is incapacitated.

Ocean Signal has also introduced Near Field Communications (NFC) into the rescueME PLB3, unleashing a new way for owners to monitor their beacons, review self-test results, view GNSS test locations, and monitor beacon performance and maintenance. By simply holding a mobile



phone over the beacon's designated NFC area, the latest beacon information is automatically transferred into the Ocean Signal mobile app for viewing.

The rescueME PLB3, once activated, transmits an AIS man overboard signal that will be picked up by any AIS equipped vessels within VHF radio range and plotted onto a connected chartplotter or ECDIS system.

At the same time, a 406 MHz distress signal will quickly and accurately relay the position to a worldwide network of Cospas-Sarsat search and rescue satellites to alert the Search and Rescue of a person in grave and imminent danger, triggering an international response that will be forwarded to the most suitable rescue service for the location of the survivor.

Offering vital reassurance in a life-threatening emergency, the PLB3 is compatible with Return Link Service (RLS) alerting technology and can provide the user with confirmation that the international satellite system has received their distress message and location.

The Ocean Signal AIS personal locator beacon features more built-in local aids to location in the form of the 121 MHz homing signal, plus visible and infrared strobe lights, which will be operational to guide assistance directly to the location, particularly during night, or other low visibility rescues.

For sailors operating in relatively close

proximity to other vessels, the most likely source of a swift rescue will come from one of those vessels that will have been alerted by the AIS MOB signal. If this signal is not received by a vessel within range, then the 406 MHz global satellite system will trigger a response suitable for the location.

The PLB3 offers all boaters a new level of safety that will help save more lives, while also aiding the rescue services in locating and helping survivors. Ocean Signal recommends that anyone taking a boat offshore should have both the 406 MHz and AIS to optimise their chances of alerting others to a distress situation. The AIS feature is most effective when there are likely to be vessels within VHF radio range where the distress alert will be picked up by AIS receivers, as those vessels will then have all the information they need to alter course and offer assistance with search and rescue operations.

The Ocean Signal beacon features innovative design elements and multifunctional clips to ensure the device can be easily installed on a lifejacket or carried on a user's person.

Weighing just 0.42lbs (190g), the rugged and waterproof rescueME PLB3 measures 7.87in / 20cm (L) x 1.41in / 3.6cm (W) x 1.81in / 3.0cm (D). It is MEOSAR compatible and capable of operating for 24 hours,





# FIRST LOOK

Your update on the latest gear arriving in the tackle shops

## PENN AUTHORITY

Focusing on best-in-class for smoothness and sealing, these reels will have a size and gear ratio for every scenario. Utilising CNC Gear technology, the precision-cut stainless steel gear train paired with the Dura-Drag system, will give you the power to tame anything. The IPX8 sealed body and spool are top of the line, ensuring that no water will reach the internals, even if submerged. The PENN Authority blends durability with style and combines them with a super smooth gear feel. These reels are best in class and offer everything you need as a keen angler.

With sizes ranging from 2500 to 10500, the 2500 – 3500 are perfect for the inshore anglers fishing for bass and pollack, while the 4500 – 7500 sizes are great for the nearshore and travelling angler targeting roosterfish, cubera snappers and jacks. The 8500 and 10500 sizes are designed to stop monster bluefin tuna and GTs of world record class with a maximum drag pressure up to 60lb/27.2kg.

- [penn-fishing.co.uk](http://penn-fishing.co.uk)
- RRP from £429.99



## REDGILL VIBRO SHADS

RedGill Vibro Shads are slim-profiled, internally weighted lures with a large paddle tail and deep ribbed body, plus an internal rattle. These features combine to give maximum vibrations along with the ultra-realistic action of the lure, which are so effective for bass, pollock, coalfish and cod. Vibro Shads are made from super tough material and rigged with Mustad hooks, giving them a longer life span than most other soft baits on the market. The lures are 130mm, 5in, in length and weigh 22g, and are available in four colours: bubblegum pink, cherry bomb, cotton candy and blue-white. RedGill Vibro Shads can either be fished using a long trace, flying collar type rig over offshore wrecks and reefs, or cast with a spinning rod either afloat or from the shore. Red Gill lures are widely available in most UK tackle shops.

- [www.redgill.co.uk](http://www.redgill.co.uk)
- RRP £9.43

## VASS-TEX 650 CHEST WADERS

The Vass-Tex 650 series range offers a very high-quality wader at fantastic value for money. Features include a sturdy PVC boot fused to a heavy duty but flexible upper body to ensure reliability and comfort are achieved. An internal pocket and wide elasticated black/white Vass braces are also featured in this wader. Unlike many other manufacturers in this price category, Vass offer the option of tungsten studded soles which makes the 650 series probably the best value Studded PVC wader on the market.

### Features

- Low profile boot (wider and lower entry point which helps get the waders on and off quicker)
- Buckle loops are boxed-stitch for reinforcement with elasticated brace loop for reliability
- Internal chest pocket
- Adjustable elasticated Vass shoulder braces

- [www.vassrainwear.co.uk](http://www.vassrainwear.co.uk)
- From £73.99







## FIRST LOOK

Chris Kennedy reviews the stunning fish-themed products of designer, artist and angler, Richard Bramble

# MARINE MUGS & PISCATORIAL PLATES

I first came across his eye-catching work in London's famous department store, Fortum & Mason, on Piccadilly. There was a whole display of fantastic plates and mugs, with bass, cod, gurnard, John Dory, mullet and other species. The artwork was unlike any I'd ever seen, and as a result, I ended up buying some mugs for myself and some for relatives. In a world where everything seems to look the same, it's nice to find something unique that stands out. What is also nice is that Richard is an angler himself; his work is his passion, which is obvious when looking at his artwork.

You can see from the images that the mugs, plates and kitchen accessories look fantastic, and I can tell you from my own experience that they are very high quality. So you're probably wondering how much they'll cost you. The beautiful fish and shellfish mugs will cost you as little as £11.95 for the small size; the mediums are £12.95 and the large size retail at £14.95. I think the cost is very reasonable, considering what you might pay for a branded mug at coffee shops in Britain's towns and cities.

As for the plates, Richard has everything from 65cm (25.5in) oval platters right down to a circular 19cm (7.5in) size. The porcelain dishes start at £11.95 and work their way up as sizes increase. Richard offers fish designs in 19, 26, 30, 39 and 65cm. Not everyone would choose to eat from these plates; they'd make great ornaments on a Welsh dresser or mounted on a white kitchen wall if you're looking for a certain aesthetic in your home.

The species he has designs of include most of the more beautiful fish, cephalopods and crustaceans that frequent UK waters like John Dory, cod, bass, gurnard, mackerel, monkfish, turbot, red mullet and predominantly freshwater species like sea trout and salmon. While all of the designs look striking with their vivid colours and artistic flair, if you're going to buy for someone else and you're not sure which design they may like best,



Richard has two mugs which are multi-species, The British Marine Species mug & The Seafish mug (pictured).

Richard has various items listed on his website, with, if you purchase, 50 per cent of the profits going toward conservation projects. For example, if you purchase the stunning limited edition British Marine Species Basking Shark mug, 50 per cent of the profits will be sent to the Marine Conservation Society, an organisation which is doing a tremendous amount of good out there.

Richard's website offers many different items, including decorative tea towels, placemats, coasters, cheese boards, soaps, bath mats, food hampers, gift wrapping paper, original art and even aprons and oven gloves. One of the very neat items he sells is a tide clock, which adjusts every day and shows you what stage the tide is at. For an avid angler, that's a wonderful time saver. Not to mention the John Dory clock looks stunning.

Richard Bramble's products would certainly make a great stocking filler, birthday or Christmas gift for a friend, family member or anyone that loves fish. I have to warn you; by going on the website, there is a strong possibility that you'll end up buying things for yourself. You can view Richard's fish and shellfish mugs on the following link, or find him on social media: [www.richardbramble.com](http://www.richardbramble.com) ■



# WIN A TRONIXPRO XENON QUARTZ BEACHCASTER

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New from Tronixpro's Xenon range of beachcasters is the Xenon Quartz. An effortless casting action makes this the go-to rod if you want to hit those extended distances with simple casting techniques like the overhead cast. Fitted with a tubular tip for extra power, and to cope with strong tides and winds, this tip won't fold over when fishing in rough conditions. The Quartz is a lightweight, balanced rod that has a powerful backbone making it the ideal rod for cod, rays and smoothhounds when fishing mixed rough ground, clean beaches and when facing big seas. The Quartz is fitted with Fuji K Guides and a Fuji DPS reel seat. Check out the full review of the Xenon range in the December 2022 issue of Sea Angler.



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Words and images: Mike Thrussell

## THE KIT YOU NEED FOR...

# ROUGH GROUND BULL HUSS

Concentrated in the southwest and west of the UK, as well as the south and west coast of Ireland, huss offer the rock and beach angler the chance of a double figure fish off the shore. They favour rough ground and can be found on relatively shallow beaches but are more normally caught from deep water rock ledges. This is the tackle you need.

### RODS

In all cases medium to long range casting will be needed with bigger fish baits, so rods in the 12-14ft length rated to cast 6-8oz have the power to bully a big fish away from seabed snags. Some anglers favour the longer 13-14ft rods as they give you better leverage on the fish and the extra length makes it easier to steer fish into little gullies and cutbacks in the rock face just prior to landing them.

■ TRONIXPRO BANZAI BZ7 13ft 9in  
6-8OZ BEACHCASTER RRP £154.99

### ROD REST

A rod rest with extendable telescopic legs is an advantage when rock fishing as the legs can be individually adjusted to suit the uneven ground and keep the rod rest head level. Huss are powerful and can pull rod rests over, so use a tie cord to the rear rod rest leg with a lead tied on the end and jam the lead in a crack or crevice in the rock to form an anchorage. It also pays to push the butt of the rod under a bit of rock or into a crack to help hold it from pulling forward.

■ SHAKESPEARE SALT  
BEACH REST  
RRP £79.99



### REELS

For beach fishing fixed spool reels in an 8000 size have the necessary line capacity but choose one with the longer Long cast spool design to aid maximum casting distance. Anglers preferring a multiplier reel will need a line capacity of around 250m of 20-25lb mono and without a level-wind system as the level-wind eye will see the leader knot jam during the cast causing a crack-off.

■ PENN 525MAG4 MULTIPLIER RRP £174.99



## MAINLINE AND LEADER

The fixed spool should be loaded with 30-40lb braid and add a 60lb braid shockleader. When fishing deep water rock ledges and casting distance is not so important, you can load with 60lb braid straight through and dispense with the shockleader. Load the multiplier with mono and add a 60lb clear or brightly coloured mono shockleader. A bright coloured leader is easy to see in your headlight at night and will aid in steering fish between snags and lobster pot buoys and identify where the fish is for safer landing.

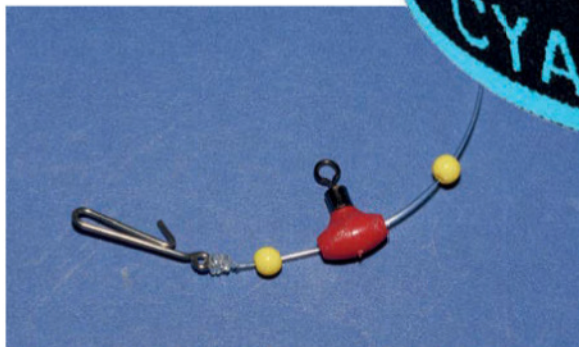
■ TRONIXPRO XENON SHOCK LEADER 60LB 100M RRP £6.99



## HEADLIGHT

Huss fishing is best in the dark hours and therefore a good headlight is essential. One with a short-range pool beam to highlight a wide area of the rock or beach around your rod rest for working and baiting up is ideal. Equally so, a powerful long range pencil beam that allows you the advantage of identifying lobster pot buoys 50-80yds away can help you steer fish through the snags. Powerful headlights are also essential when landing fish and watching for any rogue sea swells that may occur. Always carry a spare headlight too, for added safety.

■ CYANSKY TRIPLE OUTPUT HEADLIGHT RRP £73.99



## RIGS

The top rig in all shore huss situations is a pulley rig. Start with 60in of 60/80lb mono. At one end tie on a bait clip lead link. Slide on a size 5mm bead, a pulley rig bead and another 5mm bead. Measuring up from the free tag end of mono 24in, tie in a figure-of-eight knot to act as a stop for the beads and pulley rig to butt up to. This forms the hook length. Onto the hook length, slide on a normal rig crimp, a size 3mm bead then an 8mm bead. The hook needs to be a size 6/0 Viking pattern. Leaving about 2in above the hook, crimp the crimp in place. The crimp and bead form the bait stop in order to stop the bait blowing back up the hook trace due to casting pressure.



## BAITS

The best bait for huss is a mackerel head or a combination of mackerel and squid. Don't make the bait too big. Something about 3-4in in length and well wrapped in bait elastic is plenty big enough and is better suited to casting longer distances. Squid and mackerel both work as individual baits. Alternatively, a fresh small pout or poor cod can be a real edge. A large launce sandeel cut in half and bound together with bait elastic is another top bait. Slash the sides to release scent.

## LUMINOUS BEADS

Huss are inquisitive fish and will investigate luminosity on the seabed. Try adding one or two 4mm or 5mm luminous green beads directly above the hook. Charge these by holding them in the beam of your headlight, better still a UV torch, and this will add an obvious target area for the huss to home in on. This works especially well when the water is carrying some slight colour after rougher seas.

■ TRONIXPRO LUMINOUS OVAL BEADS 5MM PACK OF 100 RRP £2.99







# HANDLE WITH CARE

Chris Kennedy takes an expert look at Rapala's landing mat and weigh sling

**I** am a sea angler; that's my passion. But my work means I also need to have a fairly decent knowledge and understanding of the freshwater fishing world. They do a tremendous job in how they land, handle and return fish; there is a lot of care and thought put into it. Generally speaking, they have a much easier environment to achieve this high standard. It's obvious that on a surf beach or open sea venue, we can't replicate the netting of fish in all but the calmest of summer days. Where we certainly can do better is in weighing fish and how we put them back, something at which carp anglers excel. I believe that any angler who fishes in saltwater and freshwater will agree with me.

If you're wondering what I am talking about, it's anglers hanging fish on the scales hook and not using any sort of sling. I think to the non-angling

public who only come in contact with sea anglers on beaches and piers generally, it's sure to get their backs up or stigmatise us as villains or careless.

We are at a time when animal rights protester types are on our backs in many parts of the country, seeking the closure of venues to anglers. I am certain we can all raise our game and do better.

I know there is no formal education in terms of being sea anglers; we very much follow the herd or make it up as we go. None of us is perfect, but there is room for improvement. I don't know about you, but if I release a fish, I certainly want to give it the best chance possible of survival and reduce any possibility of serious injury if I can. If we have the attitude that "it's just a fish", then we are in trouble. Fish are arguably the most important thing in our sport, hobby or pastime. If you want this wonderful thing that we







do to be here in the future for your children or grandchildren, it's up to us to set a great example.

Whilst our saltwater species often have robust, scaly exteriors to protect them from contact with rocks of caustic undersea features. I am pretty certain that laying fish on dry rock, a concrete pier or a stony beach doesn't do the fish a lot of good. This kind of thing could often be avoided by popping them on a landing mat whilst weight or photography is done. I have to say, some of my fellow sea anglers are already doing a great job of this. They may place fish in a bucket of seawater briefly or use an IKEA-type bag to weigh their fish, and they also handle it with a wet tea towel. This sets a much better example and stops us from getting stick.

A year or so back, I was very pleased to see that Rapala VMC had identified that something was needed to enable better fish care for saltwater anglers. Rapala designed a robust, ergonomic weigh sling and release mat. This is such a self-explanatory item that I need to do a very little explaining to you guys.

For those who have been living on another planet, you land your fish, pop it in the recess of the mat, between the handles, pop it back in after a photo, weigh it using the handles, carry it back to the sea and release the fish. It boggles the mind how no other sea-centric fishing brand has thought to do this and release a good one. It's a simple product that works.

The Rapala weight and release mat is a functional size; it will take a fish up to 125cm in length. It is made of rugged PVC, with a strong set of handles and a recessed/walled compartment to accommodate your capture. It also has additional PVC meshing at either end of the sling to help keep your lively fish in place. Not only is it well made, but the nice part is that the intelligent design means that it folds down very flat for storage and the mat is very light, only adding minimal weight to the kit you take fishing.

The mat can be used for your bass, cod, pollock, coalfish, haddock and even hounds and bull huss. If you're catching big tope or conger eels, I would personally still use a Royal Mail postal sack, as I think it's more convenient for the big predators. The well-made mat is going to accommodate fish that most anglers target around the UK and Ireland. It's perfect for the job.

The Rapala weight and release mat retails at around £24.99 at reputable UK shops and online retailers making it a relatively inexpensive addition to your tackle collection and a functional one. ■





# CAN YOU HANDLE IT?

David Mitchell gives his opinion on an impressive and well-designed piece of kit from Daiwa for anglers fishing on the move

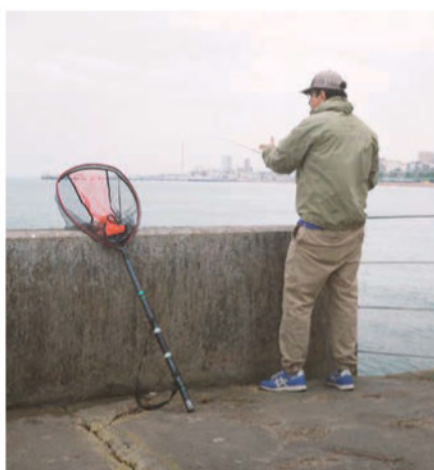
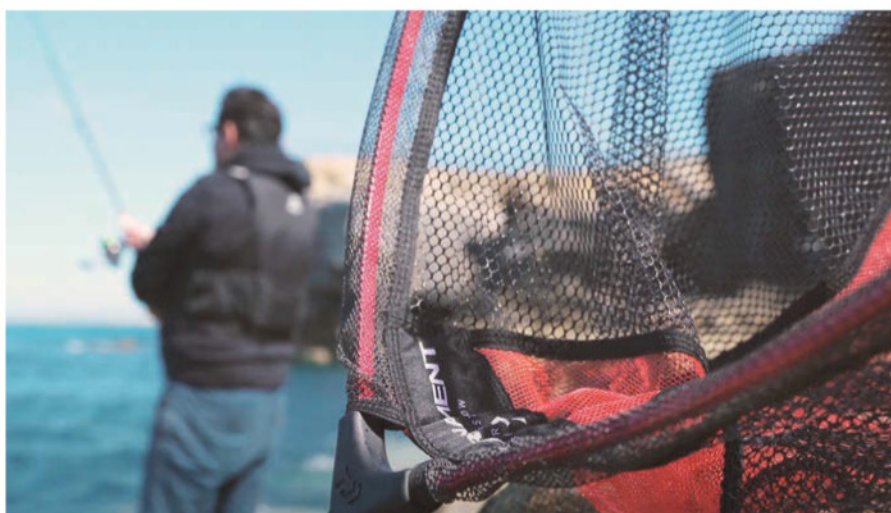


**T**he term 'game changer' gets bandied about all too casually in the tackle world. But my fishing buddy Mike meant it when he realised the way the Daiwa telescopic mobile net handle would change his approach to squid fishing from Brighton Marina. Playing these crafty cephalopods into a traditional drop net frequently results in lost fish as you manoeuvre the squid towards the net. The ability to move the net to the fish, while still playing it on the rod, with an incredible reach of nearly six metres, promises to make a real improvement on the number of squid landed in a game where up to 50 per cent of these inky predators pull free from the jig just at the point of reaching the net.

Quite apart from squid fishing the 5.9 metre light weight handle packs down to an amazing 72cm, and with a shoulder strap it means it can be carried with ease when you are fishing light and mobile, covering ground and searching out fish over a wide area. The nearly six metre handle gives you plenty of reach when fishing from elevated rock ledges, marinas and even piers where a drop net is a must-have for landing any reasonable fish.

The handle is sold separately to the nets which come in a range of options. I was using the 55cm Tournament Rubber Fast Flow net with soft mesh which screws into the end of the handle.

Fully extended the handle (loaded with net and fish) can flex alarmingly to the point where you think it may be over-extending itself. However, don't be alarmed; it is surprisingly strong and the net can be retrieved vertically by shortening the handle in its telescopic sections.



My advice would be to extend the handle to the length needed ready for use before you start fishing – particularly if you are fishing alone; although more practice using the handle would no doubt help perfect the skill of doing it one-handed while simultaneously playing a fish.

Reaching over the side of a drop to net a fish I was conscious of not letting go of the handle accidentally, and so some kind of leash to secure it to you, or something else, would be a helpful addition – not least because of the cost of losing the handle which retails at around £100, excluding the price of the net option you've chosen.

Price aside, this is a really impressive and useful piece of kit for lure anglers and those fishing from height where a drop net is impractical to carry with you and a traditional landing net too short to reach the water. ■





# MAKING A SPLASH

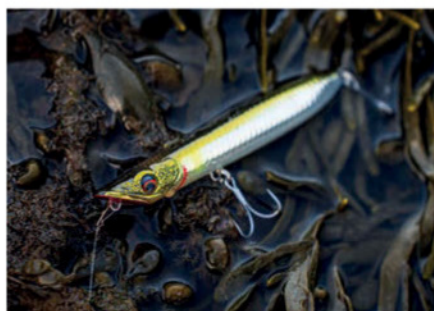
Self-confessed bass fishing addict, Henry Gilbey, tests the new range of Slap Walker surface lures from Savage Gear

**I**n the interests of transparency I do a fair bit of bass fishing related work with Savage Gear. However, I had very little to do with the development of this new range of Slap Walker surface lures – save for lots of testing which, let's be honest, is going fishing and trying to catch bass, and I do love testing new lures! I did get to have a bit of input into the final lure colours and a little bit of the casting design, but credit goes to a very clever lad in Europe who is responsible for these surface lures.

Available in 10cm/10g, 12.5cm/20g and 13.5cm/26g, there is a Slap Walker for most bass fishing situations we might find here in the UK and Ireland. I was insistent as I tested these lures that they had to cast well into a headwind, and this has been very much achieved after a bit of going back and forth with different generations of samples. If casting distance is your thing with surface lures then I reckon the middle size 12.5cm/20g Slap Walker might just be the longest casting of the three, especially on 30g or 35g lure rods; however, the baby one and the largest one also go out incredibly well. Use a more powerful rod and slow down a touch with the 13.5cm/26g version and it absolutely flies!

I know that these surface lures were designed to be very easy to fish with. It doesn't take much "working" by the angler to really get them walking side to side with a good-looking action. The Slap Walker is designed to sit backside down in the water and then walk with its face in the "up" position as it literally slaps the surface on the turns you put in. I do like a splashy surface lure action for bass. It took me a reasonable amount of time to start feeling really confident about the 12.5cm and 13.5cm versions in rougher water. They work really well if you slow down a bit, which helps them grip.

A surface lure like the Xorus Patchinko is deliberately designed with a specific face-down action which makes them very grippy, but there are other ways for surface lures to work – like the Slap Walker – so if you allow for a slightly different way of doing things then these surface lures are very effective in all manner of sea conditions. I particularly like the smallest 10cm/10g Slap Walker on a lighter lure rod fished in estuaries. I would urge you to crush the barbs on the treble hooks because bass are very likely to literally inhale it. If it helps, the treble hooks which are supplied with these lures are very good, and I really like the fact that we have got some serious surface lures here for very sensible prices. ■







# NO GUTS, NO GLORY!

England Big Game team member Paul Brian-Boys gets his hands dirty with the Columbia Blood 'N Guts clothing range

**T**he England big game fishing team were given the chance to evaluate the Columbia Blood 'N Guts range of shirts while fishing in the 2022 World Big Game Fishing Championships in Pescara, Italy.

These shirts were advertised as offering UPF 50 sun protection (essential for the fishing we were doing). They also had a special Dupont coating on the fabric which it was claimed stops the material from becoming stained by or smelling of fish blood and guts. Having thrown away countless shirts and shorts because they smelt of fish or were stained beyond redemption, this was a feature we wanted to put to the test.

Chunking for tuna involves cutting up over 40kg of sardines and constantly throwing bits into the sea around the boat. It is inevitable that you get covered in blood and bits of sardine. Given our shirts were white we sort of expected lasting damage!

To our pleasant surprise, not only did the Columbia Blood 'N Guts shirts wash out and return to new condition, but a second wash a few days later also produced the same results. The bonus was discovering that the shirts have a built-in sunglass cleaner strip which proved really useful once we realised it was there.

Our conclusion after several messy, blood-splattered days fishing was that the advertising is true and finally we have found a shirt that provides the SPF sun protection we need and is both practical and stylish for fishing. The Blood 'N Guts treatment isn't a gimmick and really works! This is a product the England Big Fishing Team are happy to recommend and one that we will actively use ourselves. ■

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# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Steve Pitts, chairman of BASS, updates Sea Angler readers on progress towards developing the UK's very own Bass Fishery Management Plan

A UK Bass Fishery Management Plan

### The Recreational Bass Economy and its Hidden Value

Many people have centred their businesses and livelihoods entirely around bass - from guiding anglers who want to catch bass, to supplying fishing tackle aimed exclusively for catching bass, art, photography, clothing suppliers and those within the tourism industry, who offer accommodation centred around providing anglers who fish for bass with board and lodgings. Anglers who fish for big bass are prepared to travel around the country, or even abroad, in search of good bass fishing.

**BUSINESS OWNERS WHERE BASS IS CENTRAL TO THEIR LIVELIHOOD**



Henry Gilbey - Writer and photographer Cornwall



John Quilan Fishing lodge owner



David Miller - Artist Pembroke



Martin Donald Charter boat skipper W. Sussex



Orkney Boats Arundel



Hand carved bass lures



Ziplines Bass rods Kent



Marc Cowling - Bass guide South Devon

A UK Bass Fishery Management Plan

There have been numerous studies conducted into the economic values of sea angling and recreational angling for bass:

- 2000 - Nautilus Consultants Ltd - Sea angling made a gross annual contribution to the coastal economy of Wales of over £28 million and employed 471 persons.
- 2004 - Drew Associates - Consumer surplus benefits of sea angling between £602m & £1,300m
- 2004 - Net Benefits recommendation - Fisheries departments should review the evidence supporting arguments for re-designating commercially caught species for wholly recreational sea angling, beginning with bass by the end of 2004.
- 2005 - Invest in Fish South West - Sea angling in the South West generates £165 million of expenditure within the region each year. We estimate that over 3000 jobs are linked to sea angling in the South West. Our best estimate of consumer surplus for Southwest resident anglers is £77m.
- 2014 - Blue Marine Foundation - The final economic output per tonne of bass retained in Sussex is almost 40 - 75 times higher for recreational bass fisheries than for commercial bass fisheries. The employment generated per tonne of bass retained is 39 - 75 times higher for recreational bass fisheries than for commercial bass fisheries.
- 2010 - Charting Progress - The value of the bass sport fishery in 2004 is estimated to be in excess of £100m p.a. The most popular species for sea anglers is bass.
- 2015 - Inland Fisheries Ireland - Total Contribution of Irish Bass Recreational Fishery to Irish Economy: € 52 million. An estimated 33,000 overseas anglers, who identified as fishing exclusively for bass, spent between €28 million and €34 million in pursuit of bass
- 2017 - Cefas / Substance - total expenditure by sea anglers = £1.94 billion, total jobs supported by sea angling = 16,313. Sea anglers in England and Wales released 80% of the bass that they caught
- 2021 - European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products - UK recreational angling expenditure on bass fishing calculated to be between 188 and 282 million Euros compared to commercial first sale value of 5.3 million Euros

*For two decades, this contribution to the UK economy has been known, yet despite the fact that sea angling supports an estimated 16,000 UK jobs, many in coastal areas, not one piece of fisheries legislation has been enacted to specifically enhance the species of fish of importance to sea anglers.*

Indeed, even within the draft Joint Fisheries Statement, recreational sea angling warrants only two short paragraphs and is referred to in terms of a competing impediment to commercial fisheries, rather than the key economic driver that it is and the health and social benefits that it provides.

**4.2.15 Recreational Sea Fishing**

4.2.15.1 The fisheries policy authorities will continue to work together - where possible, practicable and appropriate - to ensure recreational sea fishing is

**A**s reported in previous issues of Sea Angler, the Government is introducing Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for a variety of important species and bass has been chosen as a 'frontrunner', being one of six now being worked on.

The Government agency 'Policy Lab' has been tasked with engaging stakeholders, which includes us sea anglers, in the initial phases of the consultation process and so far they have been collecting 'lived experiences' from bass fishers and those involved with the sale of bass. I am very grateful to the 60 or so members who sent written statements to Policy Lab and copied me into their personal experiences of how bass fishing has changed for them in recent years.

Unsurprisingly, there were a number of themes commonly expressed by sea anglers and you might identify with some of them too:

- Reducing catches - falling bass size is a very common issue, with many claiming not to have caught or matched a previous PB for several years
- Number of blanks experienced - also higher than was the case in previous years, despite 'all the newest gear' and being more experienced/knowledgeable
- Building back bass stocks - for both numbers and size "more and bigger bass" / "more bass and bigger bass" were often quoted as essential aims for the Bass FMP
- Enforcement of regulations... or lack of enforcement and sea anglers appearing to be 'a nuisance', 'inconvenience' or hindrance in the eyes of Defra and IFCA's
- Travelling overseas - (Ireland and USA were often cited) to access better quality fishing
- Minimum Landing Size / Minimum Conservation Reference Size - almost all would like to see an increase to a 50cm minimum
- Slot size - around half have mentioned a slot size of between 48cm and 60cm - some between 50cm and 70cm
- Phasing out netting for bass in preference to hook and line / handline and recreational exploitation on sustainability and economic grounds
- Frustration - at arriving at marks to be confronted with gill nets or having witnessed the setting of nets and then their bass catches bombing.
- Health and well-being - many emphasised the exercise and mental health 'head clearing' benefits of fishing for bass





Disappointingly, there appears to have been little, if any, response with the tackle trade, but we have attempted to remedy that by raising awareness through the Angling Trades Association, while recent conversations with charter skippers and the Institute of Fishery Management have yielded some positive responses and interest in working together on the Bass FMP.

## THE MASS DEBATE

Following on from the lived experience phase, an online debate was held during August. Originally intend to run for five days, it was extended to nine days, due to the high level of participation and a few technical issues.

There were some alarming and ill-informed statements submitted (one can only assume from commercial fishermen), which hopefully won't be supported during the later stages of the consultation:

"There should be annual licences for recreational bass fishers"

"Recreational anglers should catch and release all their catch"

"Anglers should be banned from retaining bass while commercial fishing for bass continues"

"Recreational anglers should be banned from using treble hooks in order to avoid injuring or killing bass"

"No charter boat should kill bass. All should be returned"

So, it appears that some commercial fishermen want bass for themselves ... now there's a surprise.

**"There were some alarming and ill-informed statements submitted, which hopefully won't be supported during the later stages of the consultation"**

## WORKSHOP TOOLS

The next phase of this process was called 'Co-design Workshops' where some of the ideas and proposals that have been put forward in the first two phases were discussed by interested parties. They took place at Plymouth, Milford Haven and Lowestoft in late October and were followed up one week later by six online workshops where small groups of anglers, charter skippers, commercial fishermen, enforcement agencies and fishery scientists were asked for their opinions on around a dozen key subjects that had been identified as being important from the previous Bass FMP phases.

During November, there was an opportunity for anyone who was not invited to either a face to face or online workshop to submit their views via an online survey and this resulted in over 400 participants, which was a larger number than was expected. At the end of November, there will be another opportunity to fine tune some of the proposals in what is termed a 'Co-refine' process; so we are slowly progressing towards a set of proposals aimed at producing a Bass FMP, sometime in the next year to 18 months.

In conjunction with the Angling Trust, BASS has produced a 50-page document which brings together many of the economic and biological reports concerning bass from the past 20 years and puts forward our proposals for the restoration and sustainable use of our bass stocks in the future.

This was to be distributed to workshop attendees and a number of organisations involved in the Bass FMP consultation. We have had sufficient printed to allow for each of our members and many other groups to also have a copy, before the final stage of the process, which will be a public consultation, scheduled for the later part of 2023.

If you feel that you are missing out on all this excitement, it's not too late to participate in this important – possibly the most important – consultation on the future of bass. If you'd like to get involved in the process or would like more information, please email me ([chairman@ukbass.com](mailto:chairman@ukbass.com)) and keep an eye out for further updates and news on the BASS website and here, in the pages of Sea Angler. ■



■ **Keep up to date with BASS through its blog on [www.ukbass.com](http://www.ukbass.com) or on Facebook or Twitter.**



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# SEA LEAGUE

The latest results from Britain's biggest event for shore match anglers

## 13: NWSAL SILLOTH WINTER OPEN, SILLOTH, 66 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Jordan Hunter Sunderland, 54 fish, 1290cm (6); 2nd Peter Wilkinson, 47 fish, 1178cm, (not registered); 3rd Danny Kirkbride, 43 fish, 1128cm (not registered). Zone winners: Zone B - Adam Johnstone, South Shields, 24 fish, 618cm (2); Zone C - Ben Shepherd, Maryport, 29 fish, 715cm (2); Zone D - Kenny Mccoy, Sunderland, 29 fish, 641cm. Longest fish: Gav Owen, Consett, 43cm codling (2).

## 12: YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF SEA ANGLERS, HORNSEA, 27 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Mark Colman, Hornsea, 27 fish, 1005 points (2); 2nd Gary Hutson, Cleethorpes, 32 fish, 914 points (1).

## 12: SAMALITE CHESIL LEAGUE ROUND 11 OF 12, BEXINGTON, 27 anglers

Conditions were good, a moderate swell with a southerly wind and coloured water. The whiting are never prolific after a blow which meant the numbers caught were nothing like last year; however there were still plenty of fish to target. Species caught included conger, cod, small eyed and undulate rays, pout, poor cod, whiting and dogfish.

■ **Result:** 1st Jeff Fisk, Bournemouth (2); 2nd Ben Bradstock, Honiton (1). Zone A - 1st Ben Davies, 16lb 4oz: 3 congers, 3 dogs, 4 whiting, 1 pout; 2nd Dave Lane, 10lb 10oz: 2 congers, 2 dogs, 6 whiting, 2 pout; 3rd Till Hall, 10lb 3oz: 2 conger, 2 dogfish, 1 cod. Zone B, 1st Jeff Fisk: 34lb 8oz, 5 dogs, 2 whiting, 2 pout, 1 conger, 2 undulate rays (2); 2nd Ben Bradstock, Honiton: 23lb 9oz, 5 dogs, 2 whiting, 1 pout, 5 congers (1); 3rd Jason Brown: 12lb 12oz, 5 dogs, 2 whiting, 2 pout, 2 congers. Biggest fish was an undulate ray 12lb 14oz landed by Jeff Fisk.

## 6: EAST COAST WARRIOR OPEN, SEWERBY STEPS TO PAULL LIGHTHOUSE, 90 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Andy Bates, Louth, skate, 3.95kg (9); 2nd Chung Ho'Shing, Sheffield, skate, 3kg (8); 3rd Rick Smith, Hull, skate, 2.90kg (not registered).

## 6: LEINSTER LEAGUE, MORRISCATTLE BEACH, 56 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Alby Allan, South Shore,

25 fish, 683 points (5); 2nd Peter Taite, Ballybrack, 22 fish, 628 points (not registered); 3rd Seirt Shultz, Howth, 20 fish, 563 points (not registered). Section winner: Eamonn Bermingham, 16 fish, 453 points (not registered). Longest fish: 39cm bass, Alby Allan and Paul Tyndall (not registered).

## 6: REEL FUN: MINI WINTER SERIES, 40 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st James Masden, Clevedon, 6lb 11oz (4); 2nd Don Mides, 4lb 1oz (not registered); 3rd Barry Peterkin, 3lb 8oz (not registered).

## 6: FELIXSTOWE SAS MARITIME OPEN, 64 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Lee Caley, Woodbridge, 431 (6); 2nd Jason Banham, Ipswich, 358 (5); 3rd Sam Creasey, Woodbridge, 356 (4). Zone winners - Craig Buy, Colchester (2); Rob Tuck, Holland on Sea (2); Duane Lockwood, Lowestoft (not registered); Steve Adams, Chelmondiston (2); Dave Wright, Southwold (2). Biggest fish: Sam Creasey, 49cm ray.

## 5-6: AK PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS FLOUNDER OPEN, 74 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Scott Williams, 2lb 14oz (not registered); 2nd John Moore, 2lb 8oz (not registered); 3rd Gary Andrews, 2lb 5oz (not registered), 4th Lee Cruse, 2lb 1oz (not registered); 5th Gary Fields, 1lb 13oz (not registered).

## 5-6: MUNSTER SHORE THREE MATCH OPEN, 31 anglers

■ **Result:** The overall top 3 were: 1st JP Molloy, Cork (9); 2nd Derek Kenrick (not registered), 3rd Alan O Dowling (7). Zone winners - Chris O'Sullivan (3); Mark Gargen (not registered); Jamie Santry (not registered). Biggest fish was a conger landed by Chris O'Sullivan. Cork angler JP Molloy went one better than his recent silver medal in the Munster Open Shore and took the top honours at the Munster competition. Organised by West Cork & District SAC, the competition was fished over three sessions in the Youghal area, with the famed Slob Bank and Youghal beach providing the venues. **Match 1**, Slob Bank. The weather had been shocking

all week, so a bit of sunshine and dry weather was most welcome for the first match. The Munster Open Gold was held on the Slob Bank two weeks prior and had fished very well so hopes were high that good numbers of fish would show up. This match didn't fish as well as the Open but it still produced good cards for the zone winners.

■ **Result:** Zone A winner - Alan Dowling with 15 fish. Zone B winner - Chris O'Sullivan with 9 fish. Zone C winner - Mark Gargen, with 14 fish. Chris O'Sullivan also had a rare conger on the slob to take the round fish pool. There was a good mix of species in this match made up of flounder, bass, cod, poor cod, pouting, whiting, conger, dogfish and silver eels.

**Match 2**, Youghal beach. Unlike match 1, anglers were greeted by heavy showers and strong wind at the start of this match. Alan O'Dowling had a fine painted ray of 76cm at the start which would eventually win the flat fish pool.

■ **Result:** Zone A winner on the night was Derek Kenrick with a mixed card of 8 fish made up of cod, whiting, dogfish, bass and coalfish. Zone B had the least number of fish in this match. Jamie Santry won this zone with 3 cod, 40+cm. Zone C was won by JP Molloy with 9 fish, again a mixed card of dogfish, conger, cod, poor cod and pouting.

**Match 3**, Slob Bank. Match 3 would decide the eventual winner as any of the top five going into this match stood a good chance. Top position changed numerous times during the match. Each one of the top five had been in the lead at some stage, but it was to be JP Molloy's day and he won Zone A with 11 fish to take the Munster Closed Gold title for the second year in a row. Zone B winner was Derek Kenrick with 12 fish, Zone C winner was Mark Gargen with 17 fish. Winner of the October 2022 monthly prize is Andy Crowe from Scarborough with 28 points. Cameron Turner from Felixstowe had 37 points but has already won a monthly prize.

## OCTOBER'S OUTSTANDING RESULTS 30: NEWBIGGIN BY THE SEA 50TH OPEN COMPETITION, 348 anglers

92 anglers weighed in 353lb 9.6oz; 100 cod, 112 flounders, 4 wrasse, 2 coalsies.

■ **Result:** 1st Danny Logan, 3 cod, 12lb 12oz (not registered); 2nd D Ward, 17 flatfish, 12lb 8oz (not registered); 3rd Andy Crowe, Scarborough, 7 cod, 12lb 5oz (28); 4th J Lindsey, 11lb 2oz (not registered); 5th Tommy Tate, Sunderland, 10lb 11oz (26). Heaviest fish: Anthony Cook, Newcastle,

**REMINDER** Entries will only be accepted from the match organiser at least eight weeks in advance. Results must be emailed to [ian.bowell@icloud.com](mailto:ian.bowell@icloud.com) within seven days of the event. Those not received by then risk being declared void for Penn points.



# WHAT'S ON

Your at-a-glance match events planner ● = Penn Sea League

9lb cod (10); T James, 6lb 8oz cod; Danny Logan, 6lb cod. Junior winner: Adam Nyberg, 10 flatfish, 7lb 9oz.

## **30: BRITISH OPEN DEAL AND WALMER, 134 anglers**

■ **Result:** 1st Saul Page, Deal, 13 fish, for 780 points zone D (13); 2nd Cameron Turner, Felixstowe, 7 fish 420 points zone B (12); 3rd Jacob Gainey, Folkestone, 5 fish, 358 points, zone A (11); 4th Nick Browning, 4 fish, 240 points, zone C (not registered); 5th Richard Yates, St Margret's, 11 fish, 660 points zone D (9); 6th Nathan Elliott, 6 fish, 292 points, zone A; 7th Alun Price, 6 fish, 286 points, zone B; 8th James Madsen, 3 fish, 180 points, zone C; 9th Sam Collier, 8 fish, 480 points, zone D; 10th David Eaglestone, 6 fish, 271 points and also the biggest fish with a smoothhound of 81cm (not registered). Five juniors fished with the prizes being sponsored by groundwork: 1st Efyf Pali, 2 fish, 46 points; 2nd Benjamin Lee with 1 fish, 24 points; 3rd Harley Hackett, with 1 fish 20 points; 4th Seth Page, with 1 fish 16 points; 5th Isaac Collier. Thanks to Saul's wife, Sophie, donations of prizes by Anyfish Anywhere, and ASSO, a fantastic £752 was raised by the draw in aid of wife and children of the late Lee Adams.

## **30: HOLT SAC ANNUAL OPEN, BACTON, 16 anglers**

■ **Result:** 1st Mike Topping, Loddon, 14 fish, 4lb 3oz (1); 2nd Tony Thomas, Holt, 90 fish 3lb 14oz; 3rd Alan Doy, Beccles, 8 fish, 2lb 12oz (not registered).

## **29: SOUTH COAST BEACH CHAMPIONSHIPS OPEN, 51 anglers**

■ **Result:** 1st Darren Bond, lancing, 23lb 6oz (5); 2nd Saul Page, Deal, 15lb 10oz (4); 3rd Becky Lee, Hythe, 14lb 5oz (3). Section winners: Robbie Taylor, Deal, Section A (2); Billy Johnson, Deal, Section B, (2); Billy Potter, Section D (2); Phillip Lee, Sussex Section E (2). Heaviest fish went to Becky Lee with a ray measuring 55cm.

## **29: YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF SEA ANGLERS, HORNSEA, 20 anglers**

■ **Result:** 1st Mike Fox, 31 fish, 861 points (not registered); 2nd Ian Nelson, 23 fish, 588 points (1); 3rd Paul Denholm, 19 fish, 445 points.

## **29: NW TEAMS OF FIVE AND OPEN, LLANDUDNO, 48 anglers**

■ **Result:** 1st Alan Price, Rhyl, 786cm (4); 2nd Tony Roberts, Anglesey 776cm (3); 3rd Ben Price, Holyhead, 708cm (2). Biggest fish: Joseph Catterall, Wallasey, 33cm whiting (not registered). Zone winners: Wayne McGilloway, Greenfield, B zone (1); Phil House, Wallasey, C zone (not registered); Shane Russell, Colwyn Bay, D zone (1).

## **29: TRALEE BAY SAC COUNTY KERRY, IRELAND, ROSSBEIGH, 22 anglers**

■ **Result:** 1st Chris O'Sullivan, 16 fish, 380 points (2); 2nd David O'Sullivan, 9 fish 207 points (1); 3rd Clodagh Keohane, 8 fish 184 points. Best round fish: Shane McMahon, 36cm bass. Best flat fish: Jim Dalton, 26cm flounder.

SEA ANGLER ISSUE 617

## DECEMBER 2022

● **2-3:** JE Williams Memorial Festival (NWASAC), Otterspool. Pre-Book only 07572 593272.

● **3:** Harrington SAC Cod Open £20 entry, registration in Harrington Sailing Club, North Side, Harrington, Workington Cumbria CA14 5QW, registration from 9.30-11am, Fishing Times 11.30-15.30, Boundaries: Whitehaven North Pier to Workington, Blocks (both excluded), weigh-in 15.30 – 16.30pm followed by the presentation. Contact Alan on 01900 67257 or barrymcglasson@hotmail.co.uk or mattypeckford@yahoo.co.uk.

● **3:** Southern League round 12 of 12 & open, Hayling, 5pm-10pm, pegged, measure & return, undersize fish count as 1oz, £15 match entry, £5 pools, £10 pair, team of five free, 2022 League entry £25, booking ends one hour before start, book only, Darren 07919 073232, Mike 07983 579596, Ian 07736 004714 or Ant 07775 691916. Nick: southernleagueandopens@gmail.com

● **3:** Tralee Bay SAC County Kerry, Ireland, Fenit, 12-4pm, Chris O'Sullivan, atlantictackle@hotmail.com

● **3:** Yorkshire Federation of Sea Anglers, Easington, 10-3pm meet Lane End, Keith Mumby 07340 758013 or via Facebook page, Yorkshire Federation of Sea Anglers. Keith: keithmumby@btinternet.com

● **3:** Mike and Chris's Winter Heaviest Cod League Carnoustie to Ferryden Lighthouse. Entry £10 for league payable on or prior to any event. Match entry £15 per match. Any cod caught in previous matches will not count unless entry paid prior to the match. Join on the 1st or 5th match or anytime in between. League 100% pay-out, 1 prize per angler for the league. Chris on 07872 944807.

● **4:** Leinster League, Ireland, contact Alby Allan for details albertallan@hotmail.com.

● **4:** Reel Fun: Mini Winter Series, £30 league entry, £20 entry per match, fishing 2.45-6.45pm, meet 1.30pm, 60 pegs, 3 zones, 1 rod, 3 hooks pre-book only contact Steve at Reelfun 01275 848652.

● **4:** Carrickfergus Beach and Rocker SAC open Waterfoot beach, Co. Antrim, Sun 3-8pm pegged for 50 seniors, £15 Juniors, £10 Check in Mariners bar from 1pm. Contact Bobby Laughlin secretary Carrickfergus Beach & Rockers SAC robertlaughlin60@gmail.com or 07801 463834.

● **10:** Henrystackleshop.com, All Ireland cod championships, Youghal beach 4-9pm, contact JP Molloy by text only 0872 861669

● **10:** Blackdown SAC open, Minehead (Quay Pub) to Blue Anchor slipway, 5.30pm-9.30pm, sign on 4pm, Simon 07595 070848 or Facebook (Blackdown SAC Opens).

● **10:** Hastings AC open, 9.30am-2.30pm, lug, fish, squid baits only, 01424 430120. Colin Crosby: colinmichael123@gmail.com

● **10:** Samalite Chesil League round 12 of 12, Abbotsbury, 4-9pm, best nine results from 12, pre-book only, Dave Lane 07977 132951 Dave Lane: lanedc@talktalk.net

● **10:** Yorkshire Federation of Sea Anglers, Hornsea, 12-6pm meet Morrow Ave car park, Keith Mumby 07340 758013 or via Facebook page, Yorkshire Federation of Sea Anglers. Keith: keithmumby@btinternet.com

● **10:** George Winter mini opens, all prizes for single heaviest fish, meet 1 hour before match starts, fishing 5.30-9.30pm, all matches pegged, maximum 1 rod, 3 hooks, prebook with Chris Isaac C19AAC@GMAIL.COM

● **11:** Weymouth Angling Society Christmas fayre open, Preston beach, measure and release, no size limits, pegged, pre book only, Dave Lane 07977 132951 Dave Lane: lanedc@talktalk.net

● **11:** BRAAS Open Pagham 9-2pm, catch and release, booking in and draw for pegs from 8am at Pagham Yacht Club, 1 West Front Road PO21 4SY, entry cost £8 junior £4, pool flat £1 round £1, cash prize subject to entry, contact John Small 07799 762377 after 5pm

● **11:** East Anglian teams of five and open, Aldeburgh, 11-4pm, bait provided, length to weigh conversion, £25 entry, juniors must be accompanied by an adult, pre-book only with Rob Tuck 07855 848967.

● **11:** North Norfolk National Sea League Round 3, Kelling, Tony 0778 0793141, thomasamt@btinternet.com.

● **11:** Lincolnshire Open, Bohemia Point 2-7pm, book in from 12.30, £20 straight measure, lug, fish and squid baits only, contact Garry 07889 271115 or Mark 07500 112515.

● **11:** Deal Angling Club Christmas Turkey Match, Deal beach and pier, 10-3pm £15 entry, contact Pat Heath.

● **18:** Lincolnshire Open, Chapel Point, 11-4pm, book in from 9.30, £20 straight measure, lug, fish and squid baits only, contact Garry 07889 271115 or Mark 07500 112515.

● **18:** St Serfs Sea Angling Christmas Open Shore Competition, St. Monans to St. Andrews, fishing 12-6pm. Registration Anstruther Golf Club, 9-11.30am. Heaviest Cod 1st prize to £1,250, George Harris 07801 951805.

● **18:** The Christmas Flounder Fir & Feather, Loughor estuary, 10.30-3.30pm, pegged, catch and release £20 entry, contact Brian Davies 07970 404522.

● **18:** Splash Sport Fishing Tackle & Bait Christmas open, Saltcoats Promenade, £10 entry, registration 3.30-4.30pm, fishing 5-9pm, pegged, catch and release, Alexander Oldfield 07838 127781 or bigsplash14@googlemail.com.

● **26:** Hastings & St Leonards AA Black Cat charity open, 10am-noon, lug, fish, squid baits only, 01424 430120. Colin Crosby colinmichael123@gmail.com.

● **27:** Hornsea SAC Open, Sewerby Steps to Paull lighthouse, 10am-4pm, weigh in by 5pm Marine Hotel, biggest fish match, tickets on day from 7.30am at Lilly's beach cafe, £10 seniors, £5 juniors, pre-booking at East Coast Tackle, Mark Colman 07768 342169 or John Aylward 07968 215565.

● **27:** Weymouth Angling Society bangers & beans harbour open, book on in the club from 12-1pm, fishing 2-7pm, Dave Lane 07977 132951 Dave Lane: lanedc@talktalk.net.



# MATCH FISHING

- **27:** Lincolnshire Open, Sandilands 3-8pm, book in from 1.30, £20 straight measure, lug, fish and squid baits only, contact Garry 07889 271115 or Mark 07500 112515.
- **28:** Holt SAC Christmas Open & Town Team Challenge, Kelling, Mike 07858 758669, mike.watts1701@gmail.com
- **28:** Leinster league, Ireland, rescheduled from 9th October, Alby Allan, albertallan@hotmail.com
- **30:** Holt SAC Rocket House Open, Salthouse Mike 07858 758669, mike.watts1701@gmail.com

## JANUARY 2023

- **1:** Ashbridge Memorial NYD Open, Sewerby Steps to Paull lighthouse, 10am-4pm, weigh in by 5pm Marine Hotel, biggest fish match, tickets on day from 7.30am at Lilly's beach cafe, £10 seniors, £5 juniors, pre-booking at East Coast Tackle, Mark Colman 07768 342169 or John Aylward 07968 215565.
- **1:** Holt SAC New Year Open, Kelling, Tony 0778 0793141, thomasamt@btinternet.com
- **7:** Colwyn Bay Victoria Sea Anglers, winter series, North Shore, 7-11pm, Darren Jones 07595 375663.
- **7-8:** ASSO two-day open, Hythe, Princess Parade, 10.30-3.30pm, limited pegs, weight to measure, catch & release to size limits, book in on Friday night and Saturday morning at Fountain pub, call 07917 978020 to prebooked a peg.
- **8:** Amble Sea Angling Club Open, 8-12.00, tickets £12 all classes. Headquarters, registration and weigh in at the Radcliffe Club, Charles Street, Amble, NE650RA. Boundaries South Side Seahouses harbour to Combo's pier excluding all rivers and piers, contact Les Weller 07900 695538.
- **8:** North Norfolk National Sea League Round 4, Salthouse, Tony 07780 793141, thomasamt@btinternet.com
- **8:** Wales Air Ambulance Open, Amroth, Pembrokeshire, fishing 11-3pm, £10 plus optional pools and team competition, book in from 9am at the Temple Barr inn. John O'Connor 01834 891510 aardvet1@gmail.com
- **14:** Mike and Chris's Winter Heaviest Cod League Carnoustie to Ferryden Lighthouse. Entry £10 for league payable on or prior to any event. Match entry £15 per match. Any cod caught in previous matches will not count unless entry paid prior to the match. Join on the 1st or 5th match or anytime in between. League 100 per cent pay-out, 1 prize per angler for the league. Chris on 07872 944807.
- **14:** Hookers Baits 2023 Cod Championships, Beach Road, Cleveleys 2-6pm, sign-in 10-1pm, pre-book only, Jay Cityzen 07999 416559 or mantamaintenance@outlook.com.
- **15:** East Anglian teams of five and open, Sizewell, 10-3pm, length to weigh conversion, £25 entry, juniors must be accompanied by an adult, pre-book only with Rob Tuck 07855 848967.
- **21:** NW Teams of five and open, NSL

Qualifier Colwyn Bay 3-7pm, meet on the promenade, Ben Price 07393 201284 benplumb1992@gmail.com.

- **15:** Wyvern Open, Slapton Sands 1-6pm, £9 entry plus £1 optional pool, book in Gate Street car park, contact Mike Spiller 01404 43397 or email mike@spillsberg.co.uk
- **21:** Southern League round 1 of 12 & open, Hayling, 8pm-1am, pegged, measure & return, undersize fish count as 10z, £15 match entry, £5 pools, £10 pair, team of five free, 2022 League entry £25, booking ends one hour before start, book only, Darren 07919 073232, Mike 07983 579596, Ian 07736 004714 or Ant 07775 691916. Nick: southernleagueandopens@gmail.com
- **21:** Mike and Chris's Winter Heaviest Cod League Carnoustie to Ferryden Lighthouse. Entry £10 for league payable on or prior to any event. Match entry £15 per match. Any cod caught in previous matches will not count unless entry paid prior to the match. Join on the 1st or 5th match or anytime in between. League 100 per cent pay-out, 1 prize per angler for the league. Chris on 07872 944807.
- **21:** Channel Anglers SAC Porlock and Bossington Bait supplied three match series, fishing 3-7pm, draw and bait 1pm. Max 45 anglers, 3 zones, 100 per cent pay-out, £30 league entry, £20 pools per match, £11 for bait supplied, pre-book and pre-pay only, peg draw and bait allocation to take place at Porlock Weir, catch, measure, witness, return and convert to weight, James Madsen on 07900 651071.
- **22:** George Winter mini opens, all prizes for single heaviest fish, meet one hour before match starts, fishing 5-9pm, all matches pegged, maximum 1 rod, 3 hooks, prebook with Chris Isaac C19AAC@GMAIL.COM.
- **22:** Ford sports and social S.A.C, 48th open beach fishing festival, Weston shore, Southampton, 9-2pm, scales close 2.45pm, booking in from 7.30am, 1st prize £400, 2nd prize £300, large prize table, seniors and juniors, entry fee adult £11, junior £4 optional pool £4, sign in and draw for zones, area available for disabled, contact Steve 07795 810516 stephen.eales@gmx.co.uk.
- **25-28:** Irish Winter Beach Championships Co Wexford, check in 25th, fishing 26-28th, pre-book only by contacting Warren Doyle; warrendoyle27@gmail.com.
- **28:** Anglesey Match Anglers Cymyran Beach open, back up venue Holyhead breakwater, 3-8pm. Limited to 80 pegs, 100 per cent pay-out, £20 all in entry per peg, pre-pay only to Mr D L Cave, Sort code 09-01-29, account 08249663. There will be a shuttle service to pegs with a small charge. Match rules: 3 hooks and 1 rod, white rag and braid banned, mackerel, herring, launce do not count, all ray's measured nose to tail, all dogfish 50cm, silver eels 30cm, weewers 10cm. No size limit, measure everything else. Raffle in aid of Holyhead RNLI. Contact Dave Cave 07493 149584.

## FEBRUARY 2023

- **4:** Mike and Chris's Winter Heaviest Cod League Carnoustie to Ferryden Lighthouse. Entry £10 for league payable on or prior to any event. Match entry £15 per match. Any cod caught in previous matches will not count unless entry paid prior to the match. Join on the 1st or 5th match or anytime in between. League 100 per cent pay-out, 1 prize per angler for the league. Chris on 0787 2944807.
- **5/2:** Pembrokeshire RNLI Open fishing, 10:30-2:30pm, John O'Connor 01834 8915, aardvet1@gmail.com10.
- **11:** Mike and Chris's Winter Heaviest Cod League Carnoustie to Ferryden Lighthouse. Entry £10 for league payable on or prior to any event. Match entry £15 per match. Any cod caught in previous matches will not count unless entry paid prior to the match. Join on the 1st or 5th match or anytime in between. League 100 per cent pay-out, 1 prize per angler for the league. Chris on 07872 944807.
- **11:** Colwyn Bay Victoria Sea Anglers winter series, Colwyn Bay 7-11pm, Darren Jones 07595375663
- **12:** North Norfolk National Sea League Round 5, Kelling, Tony 07780793141, thomasamt@btinternet.com
- **18:** Colwyn Bay Victoria Sea Anglers winter series, Pensarn 7-11pm, Darren Jones 07595 375663.
- **18:** Southern League round 2 of 12 & open, Friars Cliff 6-11pm, pegged, measure & return, undersize fish count as 10z, £15 match entry, £5 pools, £10 pair, team of five free, 2022 League entry £25, booking ends one hour before start, book only, Darren 07919 073232, Mike 07983 579596, Ian 07736 004714 or Ant 07775 691916. Nick: southernleagueandopens@gmail.com.
- **19:** Fountain Open, Seabrook, Hythe Kent, 9-2pm, book-in at the Fountain PH from 6am, £30 entry, limited pegs, white rag and crab banned, £500 for biggest fish. Contact Mark Rogers, via FB or 07770 973062.
- **19:** Channel Anglers SAC Porlock and Bossington Bait supplied three match series 3-7pm bait and draw 1pm. Max 45 anglers, 3 zones, 100 per cent pay-out, £30 league entry, £20 pools per match, £11 for bait supplied, pre-book and pre-pay only, peg draw and bait allocation to take place at Porlock Weir, catch, measure, witness, return and convert to weight, James Madsen on 07900 651071.
- **19:** George Winter mini opens, all prizes for single heaviest fish, meet 1 hour before match starts, fishing 4-8pm, all matches pegged, maximum 1 rod, 3 hooks, prebook with Chris Isaac C19AAC@GMAIL.COM.

Please check with the event organisers before travelling



## LEADER BOARD AS OF 17TH NOVEMBER 2022

Leaderboard as of 17th November (two results outstanding), of all those anglers who have registered for the league and have scored 10 or more points. If you think you have scored PSL points in 2022 and are not shown on the leader board, its likely you've not registered. All those wishing to register please email Ian Bowell [ian.bowell@samf-uk.co.uk](mailto:ian.bowell@samf-uk.co.uk) and include your name, mobile number and postal address.

Saul Page	Deal	99	Jim Morris	Chester	26	Steve Dixon	Seaham	16
Ben Bradstock	Honiton	71	Ivor Smith	Rogerstone	25	Alby Allan	South Shore	15
Darren Bond	Lancing	69	Lloyd Summer	Caerphilly	25	Phil Juhu	Merthyr Tydfil	15
Ben Price	Holyhead	64	Paul Medd	Peterborough	25	Steve Adams	Chelmondiston	15
Shane Russell	Old Colwyn	64	Shaun Tucker	Swansea	25	Carl Campion	Swansea	14
Cameron Turner	Felixstowe	58	Nathan Elliott	Dover	24	Dave Lane	Weymouth	14
Andy Crowe	Scarborough	53	Tony (Bob) Roberts	Holyhead	24	Dave Turnbull	Darlington	14
Joe Wales	Shoreham	53	Wayne McGilloway	Greenfield	24	David O'Sullivan	Tralee	14
Andrew Dugdale	Peel	51	Andy Bates	Louth	23	Jacob Gainey	Folkestone	14
Alan Price	Rhyl	47	Philip A Lee	Sussex	23	JP Molloy	Cork	14
Joe Plumstead	Pevensey Bay	47	Andrew Hutchings	Cardiff	22	Mike Larkin	Barrow	14
Neil Cutler	Gateshead	42	Billy Johnson	Deal	22	Nicky Robson	Wallsend	14
Tommy Tate	Sunderland	42	Gareth Griffiths	B in Furness	22	David Cooper	Edinburgh	13
Darren Newland	Ryde	40	Ian Hewitt	Blackpool	22	Don Cook	Barry	13
George Smith	Grimsby	40	Joe Perry	Liverpool	22	Michael Laycock	Workington	13
Julian Shambrook	Torquay	39	Steve Swan	Herne Bay	22	Nick Snow	Bristol	13
Steve Williams	Jarrow	39	Aidan O'Halloran	Lisdoonvarna	21	Phil France	Scarborough	13
Ben Arnold	Brighton	37	Tom Dew	Llanelli	21	Roy Tapper	Cardiff	13
Dan Mogridge	Portsmouth	37	Ben Shepherd	Maryport	20	Steve Gibson	Withernsea	13
Rob Tuck	Holland on Sea	37	Kevin Lewis	Dundee	20	Steve Potts	Gosforth	13
Richard Yates	St Marg Bay	33	N Charlesworth	Hornsea	20	Allan Beale	Middlesborough	12
Billy Potter		32	Paul Harrison	Aldeburgh	20	Brian Harland	Whitby	12
Simon Drayton	Gainsborough	32	Chung Ho Shing	Sheffield	19	Mark Rogers	Maidstone	12
Dave Llewelyn	Barry	31	Gary Hazelgrove	Brighton	19	Matt Pitter	Southampton	12
Jimmy Price	Abergele	30	Fon Owen	Anglesey	18	Alan Combe	Kirkcaldy	11
Keith Smith	Blyth	30	Henry Randell	Bodham	18	Brett Cotter	London	11
Gary Medler	Great Yarmouth	29	Lee Caley	Woodbridge	18	Chris Stephens	Bridgend	11
Gary Parsons	Bridgend	29	Aidan O'Sullivan	Tralee	17	Jeff Fisk	Bournemouth	11
Gavin Owen	Consett	29	Mark Pinder	Ipswich	17	Kevin Hughes	Port Talbot	11
Kenny McCoy	Sunderland	29	Colin Crosby	Hastings	16	Mark Colman	Hornsea	11
Paul Smith	South Shields	29	Dave Shorthouse	Kettering	16	Matt Hillaby	Scarborough	11
Paul Whelan	Ballybrack	29	Ian Bowell	Ipswich	16	Mike Coates	Hull	11
Sam Collier	Deal	29	James Dew		16	Anthony Cook	Newcastle	10
Steve Smyth	Cardiff	29	Jane Cantwell	Ireland	16	Ben Richards	Ramsey	10
Tom Wells	Deal	29	Julian French	Brighton	16	Callum Richardson	Preston	10
Bill Lindfield	Greasby	27	Kevin Daly	Bristol	16	Chris Isaac	Llanelli	10
Chris Read	Cardiff	27	Louie Smith	Deal	16	Claire Loder	Cwmbran	10
Gethyn Owen	Penmearmawr	26	Paul Garbutt	Skelton	16	Colin Bell	Newcastle	10
James Madsen	Clevedon	26	Phil Arliss	Filey	16	Dave Chidzoy	Bridport	10
						Ian Dancey	Waterlooville	10
						Luke Mooring	Dover	10
						Mark Thomas	Scarborough	10
						Robbie Taylor	Deal	10

Only those with 10 or more points are listed here

## HOW IT WORKS

■ With £10,000 in tackle prizes the points, based on entries, are awarded to the top three plus section winners and captors of the largest fish caught in each designated Penn match. Penn also awards a prize of a Spinfisher fixed-spool reel to the angler scoring the most points in matches shown in each issue. If there is a tie, the winner will be the angler whose total is from the greatest number of results and is then chosen on merit by the editor. An angler can win only one reel during the year. To win a prize you must be registered with the Penn Sea League – supply your name, address, phone and email. Send fixtures, results and league registration by email to Ian Bowell: [ian.bowell@icloud.com](mailto:ian.bowell@icloud.com)

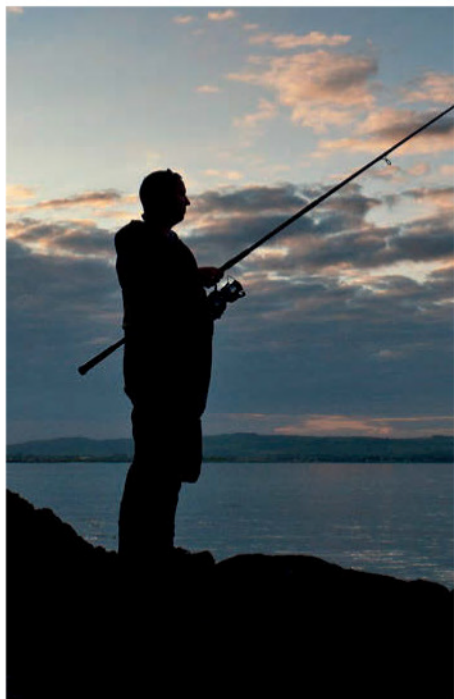


October winner:  
Andy Crowe from  
Scarborough with 28 points



# TIDES

Tide times and heights to help plan your fishing sessions over the coming months.  
Times listed for London Bridge\*



## DECEMBER

1	THU	07:09	5.96	19:59	6.40
2	FRI	08:27	5.98	21:07	6.42
3	SAT	09:39	6.13	22:15	6.49
4	SUN	10:44	6.32	23:19	6.57
5	MON	11:42	6.49		
6	TUE	00:13	6.61	12:29	6.62
7	WED	00:57	6.63	13:10	6.73
8	THU	01:35	6.65	13:48	6.84
9	FRI	02:09	6.69	14:25	6.90
10	SAT	02:42	6.69	15:01	6.85
11	SUN	03:15	6.61	15:36	6.70
12	MON	03:46	6.47	16:11	6.52
13	TUE	04:18	6.33	16:45	6.36
14	WED	04:51	6.20	17:24	6.22
15	THU	05:30	6.05	18:06	6.07
16	FRI	06:14	5.89	18:56	5.93
17	SAT	07:06	5.74	19:56	5.85
18	SUN	08:10	5.69	21:07	5.92
19	MON	09:34	5.83	22:14	6.12
20	TUE	10:43	6.15	23:15	6.36
21	WED	11:42	6.50		
22	THU	00:12	6.58	12:35	6.80
23	FRI	01:05	6.73	13:27	7.02
24	SAT	01:56	6.80	14:17	7.16
25	SUN	02:45	6.80	14:17	7.16
26	MON	03:33	6.80	15:59	7.22
27	TUE	04:20	6.74	16:49	7.12
28	WED	05:07	6.63	17:42	6.93
29	THU	05:57	6.50	18:37	6.72
30	FRI	06:51	6.36	19:35	6.53
31	SAT	07:53	6.25	20:33	6.36

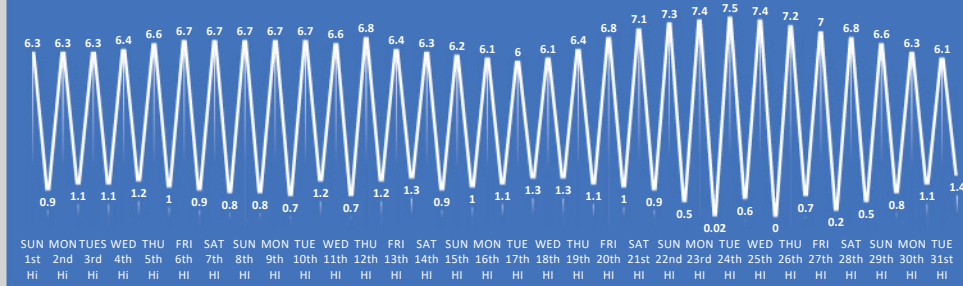
## \*TIDAL VARIATIONS FROM LONDON BRIDGE

Wick	-2 29
Lossiemouth	-2 00
Aberdeen	-0 18
Stonehaven	-0 08
Cockenzie	+0 47
Berwick	+0 54
Blyth	+1 46
North Shields	+1 47
Hartlepool	+1 59
Whitby	+2 20
Scarborough	+2 30
Filey Bay	+2 45
Bridlington	+2 58
Skegness	+4 29
Hunstanton	+4 44
Cromer	+4 56
Lowestoft	-4 23
Aldeburgh	-2 53
Felixstowe pier	-2 23
Clacton	-2 00
Southend-on-Sea	-1 22
Herne Bay	-1 24
Margate	-1 52
Deal	-2 38
Dover	-2 53
Dungeness	-3 05
Eastbourne	-2 48
Newhaven	-2 47
Brighton	-2 51
Worthing	-2 36
Portsmouth	-2 29
Ryde	-2 29
Southampton *	-2 53
Poole (Entrance) *	-5 09
Bournemouth *	-5 09
Swanage *	-5 19
Portland	+4 57
Torquay	+4 40
Dartmouth	+4 25
Plymouth	+4 05
Fowey	+3 53
Falmouth	+3 30
Newquay	+3 32
Padstow	+3 45
Barnstaple	+4 30
Weston-super-Mare	+5 05
Cardiff (Penarth)	+5 15
Barry	+5 08
Swansea	+4 42
Milford Haven	+4 37
Fishguard	+5 44
Aberystwyth	-6 11
Barmouth	-5 45
Holyhead	-3 28
Menai Bridge	-3 08
Colwyn Bay	-2 47
Southport	-2 55
Blackpool	-2 50
Morecambe	-2 33
Barrow (Ramsden)	-2 28
Whitehaven	-2 30
Kirkcudbright Bay	-2 25
Girvan	-1 51
Ayr	-1 44
Lamlash	-1 45
Greenock	-1 19
Oban	+4 12
Gairloch	+5 16
Ullapool	+5 36
Belfast	-2 47
Douglas	-2 44

## JANUARY

DATE	DAY	TIME	HEIGHT(M)	TIME	HEIGHT(M)	TIME	HEIGHT(M)	TIME	HEIGHT(M)
1	SUN	02:42	1.5	08:53	6.3	15:19	0.9	21:32	6.3
2	MON	03:47	1.5	09:55	6.3	16:17	1.1	22:35	6.2
3	TUE	04:53	1.4	10:58	6.3	17:17	1.1	23:38	6.3
4	WED	05:58	1.2	11:58	6.4	18:17	1.2	***	***
5	THU	00:31	6.4	06:56	1	12:48	6.6	19:09	1.1
6	FRI	01:17	6.5	07:46	0.9	13:33	6.7	19:53	1.1
7	SAT	01:56	6.5	08:29	0.8	14:14	6.7	20:31	1.1
8	SUN	02:32	6.6	09:07	0.8	14:51	6.7	21:05	1.2
9	MON	03:06	6.6	09:43	0.8	15:25	6.7	21:37	1.2
10	TUE	03:37	6.6	10:16	0.7	15:57	6.7	22:11	1.2
11	WED	04:09	6.5	10:48	0.7	16:30	6.6	22:45	1.2
12	THU	04:41	6.5	11:19	0.8	17:04	6.5	23:18	1.2
13	FRI	05:14	6.4	11:46	0.8	17:40	6.4	23:49	1.3
14	SAT	05:51	6.3	12:14	0.9	18:20	6.2	***	***
15	SUN	00:24	1.4	06:33	6.2	12:49	1	19:07	6.1
16	MON	01:07	1.5	07:23	6.1	13:36	1.1	20:07	5.9
17	TUE	02:05	1.7	08:30	14:41	1.2	21:27	5.9	
18	WED	03:24	1.7	09:57	6.1	16:16	1.3	22:41	6.1
19	THU	05:04	1.5	11:12	6.4	17:35	1.1	23:50	6.4
20	FRI	06:23	1.1	12:17	6.8	18:48	1	***	***
21	SAT	00:52	6.6	07:38	0.8	13:16	7.1	19:59	0.9
22	SUN	01:47	6.8	08:43	0.5	14:11	7.3	20:59	0.8
23	MON	02:38	7	09:39	0.2	15:02	7.4	21:51	0.7
24	TUE	03:26	7.1	10:28	0	15:50	7.5	22:36	0.6
25	WED	04:11	7.1	11:11	-0.1	16:37	7.4	23:16	0.6
26	THU	04:54	7.1	11:49	0	17:23	7.2	23:53	0.7
27	FRI	05:37	7	12:23	0.2	18:09	6.9	***	***
28	SAT	00:29	0.9	06:22	6.8	12:55	0.5	18:57	6.5
29	SUN	01:07	1.2	07:10	6.6	13:32	0.8	19:47	6.2
30	MON	01:52	1.4	08:04	6.3	14:20	1.1	20:42	6
31	TUE	02:53	1.6	09:07	6.1	15:23	1.4	21:45	5.8

## HEIGHT(M)



IRELAND	
Dun Laoghaire	-2 09
Arklow	-4 41
Rosslare harbour	+4 39
Baginbun Head	+3 53
Ballycotton	+3 45
Courtmacsherry	+3 32
Baltimore	+3 35
Bantry	+3 15
Fenit pier	+3 13
Kilrush	+4 02
Galway	+3 36
Clifden Bay	+3 41
Westport Bay	+3 57
Sligo harbour	+4 25
Killybegs	+4 21
Rathmullan	+4 43

NORTHERN IRELAND	
Belfast	-2 47
Portrush	+5 48
Red Bay	-2 41
Carrickfergus	-2 42



3-5 MARCH 2023

29th


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High x 5ft (150cm) Deep x 9ft (270cm)



Daiwa Beach Shelter £99.99  
25mt W x 1.4mt H x 1.5mt D



Dam/Imax Competition Shelter £119.99 20x H110 Wx14cm D

**Century SEA**

Century are now one of the leading producers of top of the range surf rods, with fantastic advances in rod build technology, and one of the best finishes on the market, and top notch rings. Just pick one to suit your fishing you can't go wrong. Gerry's also now are the only supplier that can custom finish your rods, you need to call us to discuss your wants and needs. Gerry's have been building rods in house for 40+ years!

The 3rd generation of Tip Tornado Graphex rods capture the best of the past and brings new and defined benefits commensurate with advances in manufacturing and material technology. Graphex technology is a bespoke combination of the resin matrix and Graphene to benefit the rods; durability, distance, tracking, sensitivity, dampening recovery to neutral and weight saving.



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**ELIMINATOR**

**FIREBLADE**

**EXCALIBUR**

**KOMPRESSOR**

TT-R

Tip Tornado Graphex Sport 13' 11" / 125-225g  
Tip Tornado Graphex Supermatch 13' 6" / 125-200g  
Tip Tornado Graphex Match 13' 6" / 125-175g  
Tip Tornado Graphex Supermatch LD 13' / 50-150g  
Tip Tornado Graphex Ultralite ST 13' / 50-125g  
Eliminator 11200 14' 10" / 125-225g  
Eliminator 11200 Salvador Bustos Edition 14' 4" / 125-225g  
Eliminator 11000 14' 10" / 125-200g  
Eliminator 1900-SGT 14' 4" / 125-200g  
Eliminator 1800-SGT 13' 6" / 100-175g  
Eliminator 1700-SGT 15' / 100-170g  
Excalibur TT 14' 10" / 100-225g  
Excalibur C 13' 10" / 100-200g  
Excalibur J 13' 10" / 100-200g  
Compressor WR 300 13' 3" / 125-225g  
Compressor SS 13' 10" / 125-200g  
Compressor S 13' 10" / 125-200g  
TTR 14' / 125-225g  
Tip Tornado Sport 13' 6" / 125-225g  
Fireblade 13' 13' / 125-175g  
NEW Fireblade 14' 14' / 125-200g

	RRP	Gerry's Price
Heavy - Mixed	£640.00	£559.99
Light Heavy - Smooth	£595.00	£519.99
Mixed - Smooth	£590.00	£514.99
Mixed - Smooth	£570.00	£498.99
Smooth	£540.00	£474.99
Heavy ground	£765.00	£669.99
Heavy ground	£765.00	£669.99
Heavy ground	£745.00	£649.99
Heavy - Mixed	£670.00	£584.99
Mixed - Smooth	£615.00	£534.99
Mixed - Smooth	£650.00	£564.99
Heavy ground	£745.00	£649.99
Mixed ground	£570.00	£498.99
Heavy - Mixed	£570.00	£498.99
Heavy ground	£595.00	£519.99
Heavy ground	£530.00	£464.99
Heavy - Mixed	£525.00	£459.99
Heavy ground	£685.00	£598.99
Heavy - Mixed	£540.00	£469.99
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Mixed ground	£370.00	£324.99

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**Imax ARX Thermo Ice** thermal lined good down to -20 norm **£149.99** Gerry's **£106.99**

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These are brilliant last a lifetime, easy to cast reels



**20SHA 300x15lb**  
**30SHA 300x20lb**  
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**Daiwa 19 Emblem Surf 45 SCW QD**

Possibly the longest casting reel on the market with its shallow spool, either braid or mono!  
• 300yds of 50lb braid or 15lb mono!  
• 4.9:1 ratio • 630g in weight  
• Mag sealed • Air rotor • Digi Gear  
• Quick Drag • Twist Buster II  
Was **£209.99** now **£159.99**



**DAIWA SUPER TUNED**

This reel is possibly the best casting reel ever made, with it's unique magnofuge braking system that compensates for the fall at the top arc when casting, brilliant! This spool in the right hands can approach 30'000 revs



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Have been built using Daiwa's unique carbon technology. HVF High Volume Fibre for a lighter stiffer blank. Furnished with premium Fuji K Alconite guides with and Fuji reel seat. All multiplier models are fitted with sliding reel seats with a fixed DPS on fixed spool and bass models.  
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• V-Joint Bias carbon joints  
• X45 Carbon Technology

• Full Japanese shrink grip and DPS style sliding reel seat on multiplier models  
• Fixed Fuji DPS reel seat on fixed spool and Bass rods  
• Stainless steel Fuji K Alconite guides  
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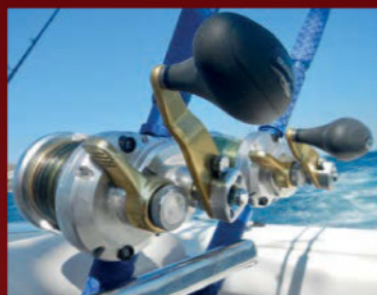
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